

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

In a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, what's your level of confidence that the Legislature will pass a budget before the Sept. 30 deadline?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

MAHARLIKA



The Philippine Election Commission may be asked to send a team to the CNMI. ➤ PAGE 10

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CUC execs snub impeachment hearing

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Because of allegedly deficient notices, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. officials did not show up yesterday morning to testify before the Special Committee on Impeachment on the \$190.8-million, 25-year power purchase agreement that is the subject of an allegation of corruption against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

» OAG says subpoena notice 'deficient'

But Committee chair and House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) said it had more to do with "miscommunication or lack of communication" between CUC acting executive director Alan Fletcher and CUC legal counsel on the accommodation that the panel extended to Fletcher.

The committee initially gave Fletcher five days from receipt of subpoena to appear but Fletcher asked the panel to reschedule it to an earlier date—yesterday—because he was going off-island.

The panel thus approved an earlier date for Fletcher to appear before them.

Deleon Guerrero subpoenaed on Wednesday Fletcher, CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren, and deputy director for power Wallon Young to testify on the power deal Friday.

Assistant attorney general Rebecca Wrightson, legal counsel for CUC, said "these subpoenas are untimely because notice is deficient pursuant to the require-

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Soldiers' families briefed on 2013 deployment



Families of soldiers from the Northern Marianas were given updates on the pending deployment of the Guam Army National Guard's 1-294th Infantry Regiment, in a briefing last night at the Saipan World Resort.

Lt. Col. Michael Tougher, battalion commander, spoke to the families about what they and their soldiers can expect in the upcoming months before the unit

leaves for its mobilization training in February, at training sites in the U.S. mainland. The battalion is slated to deploy to Afghanistan early next year.

There are 18 soldiers from the CNMI who are assigned to the 1-294th Infantry Regiment, made up of both males and females. There are no females directly assigned to any positions in infantry units, but the females who are deploy-

ing with the battalion are part of F Company, a combat service support unit that was attached to the battalion.

Tougher talked to the soldiers and their families who attended the meeting about the unit's scheduled training in October, at Camp Roberts in California, and the type of mission the unit is expected to conduct during deployment.

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Lt. Col. Michael Tougher, 1-294th Infantry Regiment commander, standing, and Sgt. Maj. Melchor Hennegan, battalion command sergeant major, seated right, speak to a soldier and his family assigned to his unit, about the battalion's pending deployment, during a briefing last night at the Saipan World Resort.

GUARNG

CNMI LeakSource posts court papers on House vice speaker, others

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

CNMI LeakSource, a new website seeking to expose government and business secrets, posted three new sets of documents online on Thursday, including a court order on outstanding judgments

against House vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) and Pacific Information Bank, a court order against Republican Precinct 2 candidate Liana S. Hofschneider, and an American Samoa media article about Divi-



sion of Environmental Quality manager Frances Castro, who was charged with reckless driving and speeding.

CNMI LeakSource posted a Feb. 23, 2012, court order, signed by Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja,

pertaining to the outstanding judgments against the incumbent House vice speaker.

"She has not one, but four collection cases against her that go back 10-12 years. Combined, she owes over \$100,000. She entered into an agreement to pay this combined debt off, but she failed to

See LEAKSOURCE on Page 4

Local

Suspect in car burning case allowed to post bail

The Superior Court has allowed a former disc jockey accused of setting fire to a car to post bail.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho modified the \$10,000 cash bail imposed on Aziz Peter Mettao and allowed the 27-year-old suspect to post just 10 percent of the amount, or \$1,000, plus a \$9,000 appearance bond.

Mettao's mother, Julita, was named as the suspect's primary third party custodian and his godmother, Ana Maria Limes, as secondary third party custodian.

The former disc jockey of Power 99 Studio is accused of setting fire to the company's vehicle on Sept. 10, 2012.

Mettao is prohibited from having direct or indirect contact with Power 99 Radio Station and is required to observe a daily 7pm to 7am curfew.

Camacho said that any person

accused of committing a crime is presumed innocent until proven guilty. "Therefore a person charged with a crime should not be denied freedom unless there is a good reason. An arrest only initiates the criminal justice system. An arrest is not a conviction," he explained.

He pointed out that in felony cases it is the jury that weighs the evidence and issues the verdict.

"Today is only a bail hearing and we are not yet at the trial stage," Camacho said.

Arson investigator Norman Skilling stated in his report that police received a call from a man on Sept. 10, 2012, at 3:51am that a vehicle was on fire west of the Power 99 building.

When police officer Daniel Smith arrived at the scene, he saw a silver Hyundai Tucson with license plate ADY 761

with its interior engulfed in flames.

A firefighter came and extinguished the blaze. The vehicle sustained extensive damage inside. The window glasses were shattered and the upper portion of the front windshield had cracks.

Skilling said a witness saw a man, later identified as Mettao, throw a bottle to the left rear window of the Power 99 vehicle, triggering the fire. He saw the suspect throw another bottle at the car, but this time the bottle bounced.

The witness said the fire caught the suspect in the back. The witness and his companion chased the suspect who ran toward a house.

The second witness recognized the suspect as Mettao. While Smith was still at the scene, a person approached and

disclosed that Mettao was hiding near the area.

Smith spotted Mettao and es-

corted him to the main roadway where he then called the two witnesses. The witnesses identi-

fied Mettao as the person they saw burning the vehicle. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Judge acquits mother of child abuse

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has acquitted a woman of child abuse charges.

Wiseman granted Wednesday the Office of Public Defender's motion for judgment to acquit Tahira S. Miah.

In a written order issued yesterday, the judge noted that there was no evidence presented in the CNMI government's case about the type of punishment that is beyond the scope of reasonable corporal punishment," he said.

In a criminal trial, Wiseman said the government bears the burden of proving each element of its case beyond a rea-

sonable doubt.

"It is the holding of this court...that the prosecution failed to meet its burden with establishing a *prima facie* case whereby a rational trier of fact could find one of the elements of a *prima facie* case beyond a reasonable doubt, to wit: that the alleged pain or injuries was clearly beyond the scope of reasonable corporal punishment," he said.

Wiseman said a trial court should deny a motion for a judgment of acquittal unless the government's evidence is insufficient to sustain a conviction.

The 25-year-old Miah is

represented in the case by assistant public defenders Daniel Guidotti and Douglas Hartig. Assistant attorneys general Nicole Driscoll and Darren Robinson represented the government.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Miah with child abuse for beating her child on Aug. 6, 2011. It was Tahira Miah's former husband, Mohammad Jahanmir Miah, who filed the complaint.

In November 2011, the federal court placed Tahira Miah on probation for two years for her role in a driver's license scam. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



COMMISSIONED OFFICER

Saipan-born Ensign Sarilyn Ogumoro Escobar is presented with her commission papers, making her the first female Carolinian to be a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy. She graduated from Marianas High School in 2000 and also got her associate degree in Liberal Arts from Northern Marianas College before enlisting into the armed forces. She joined the U.S. Navy in 2005. Escobar received both a bachelor's degree in Psychology from University of Phoenix and a bachelor's degree in Nursing with honors from National University. She will be reporting to Officer Development School in Newport Rhode Island and later reporting to Naval Hospital Portsmouth, Virginia. She is the daughter of DPS Deputy Commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro, who witnessed her swearing in.

PSS begins implementing common-core state standards

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Despite the ongoing financial challenges, all Public School System teachers and administrators will still be able to continue with their training for the new national standard, thanks to a grant from the federal government.

Tim Thornburgh, federal programs officer for PSS, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that PSS was recently approved a \$61,000 grant by the U.S. Department of Education for the teachers' training on common-core standards. This will be available for drawdown next month, the beginning of the new fiscal year.

To ensure that all needs for the workshop will be met, Thorn-

burgh said an additional \$30,000 has been reprogrammed from the federal grants that PSS received in fiscal year 2012.

Starting this new school year, CNMI public schools have adopted the common core state standards, aligning them with 48 other states and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In an earlier interview with Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., she said that PSS is only the second U.S. territory to adopt the state standards. Most U.S. states are also implementing the standards beginning this school year.

The common core state standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate high

school and are able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs.

This initiative is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers. These standards were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare children for college and the workforce.

The standards provide teachers and parents with a common understanding of what students are expected to learn and provide appropriate benchmarks for all students, regardless of where they live.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

4 beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged beaches adjacent to the Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, south Puerto Rico Dump, and the Smiling Cove Marina and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (*DEQ*)

Marines, Navy training at FDM, W-517

The U.S. Marine Corps will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Sept. 24-30, from 9am to 11:30pm. The U.S. Navy will conduct training at W-517 on Sept. 26-27, from 8am to 5pm.

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical-mile radius on all quadrants. (*USN*)

CCA board meets on Sept. 25

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2012, at 3pm in the CHC Conference Room No. 2. The agenda includes reports from the president, steering committees, program manager, and program/project updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. (*CCA*)

Free business workshop on Monday

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the CNMI Commerce's Small Business Development Association will be

hosting a free workshop, The Upsides of Exporting & The Taiwan Market, on Monday, Sept. 24, 2pm to 3pm. Guest speaker is Steve Green. Seats may be limited, so confirm a seat at (670) 233-7150. (*PR*)

Joeten Kiyu Public Library calendar

- Sept. 21, 2012, Friday:
 - Eagle Books Read Aloud at 4pm
 - Movie Night at 4:30pm,
 - Weight of the Nation: HBO part 3 "Children in Crises"
- Sept. 22, 2012, Saturday:
 - Cooking demonstration from 11am-2pm
 - Eagle Books Read Aloud at 2pm
 - Weight of the Nation: HBO part 3 "Children in Crises" at 2:30-3:30pm
- Sept. 26, 2012, Wednesday:
 - Eagle Books Read Aloud at 4pm
 - Movie Night at 4:30pm
 - Weight of the Nation: HBO part 3 "Children in Crises" at 2:30-3:30pm

Attend any of these activities and get your voucher signed. You can pick up your incentive on Sept. 29, from 7am to 12pm. (*PR*)

Hyatt kitchen experts join NMTI's roster of instructors

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Two kitchen experts from one of the major hotels on Saipan will be helping out at the Northern Marianas Trade Institute to train the Commonwealth's future culinary professionals.

Blake E. Carothers and Shawn Sweeney, both employees of the Hyatt Regency Saipan, are the newest additions to the teaching workforce of the trade institute, which offers a short-term culinary arts program.

Carothers and Sweeney bring to 15 the number of instructors at the institute for the new cycle of enrollees. The two will join instructor Norisa Camacho in the school's culinary arts program, which will open next month.

Carothers, who is Hyatt's chef de cuisine, said yesterday that their curriculum will range from the basics in the culinary arts to advanced lessons.

Carothers was with Hyatt Regency Saipan in 2009. He then transferred to the Hyatt Regency in Lake Tahoe as its lead banquets/butcher for more than two years. He rejoined Hyatt Saipan as its chef de cuisine in June this year.

Before joining the hotel industry, Carothers worked in various capacities for the University of Wyoming, Texas Tech University, Ark Regional Services, and Ministry of Economic Affairs in Taiwan.

He obtained his bachelor's degree in political science from University of Wyoming in 2005 and earned a masters of arts in communication in 2008. In 2009, he obtained his associate in culinary arts degree from Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts.

A first-time instructor at the institute, Carothers is confident that despite the limited instructional time for the program, students will gain many great lessons and experiences similar to what students can learn in a two-year culinary arts program. Already excited to meet his students, Carothers said he has only one expecta-

tion—to make every student in his class become successful in the program.

Like Carothers, Sweeney is also a graduate of Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts where she obtained a patisserie and baking associate degree last month. She is currently

Hyatt's pastry chef in-training.

Prior to this position, she served as cart lead in Herbs



Carothers



Sweeney

Mac and Cheese in Portlana, Oregon. She also worked for Eclexion Arts and Fashions in Portland, Oregon as the company's caterer and assistant business manager and as field manager for Fund for Public Interest in Portland.

Sweeney is a recipient of the Blue Grant Scholarship and won first place in the Gingerbread House Competition in

Le Cordon Bleu and was also the institution's Dean's Honors List in 2010.

Sweeney said this is her first time on the island and the first time to be an instructor.

Carothers and Sweeney will be teaching 20 students each class.

High Court affirms probate court jurisdiction in easement dispute

The CNMI Supreme Court issued Tuesday a ruling that affirms an order of the trial court—sitting in probate—that found an easement implied by prior existing use extending over land owned by Gerald P. Reyes for the benefit of land owned by Akieva C. Reyes.

The deceased, Charles P. Reyes Sr., owned various properties in Chalan Laulau, Saipan. Although these properties were subdivided over the years and included two access easements, there was evidence that Reyes did not strictly follow property boundaries when accessing his

properties. After Reyes passed away in September 2006, the family submitted his will to the probate court for distribution of his estate. The probate court distributed Reyes' property in accordance with his will.

In relevant part, Reyes' son Gerald and daughter Akieva received lots that shared a common boundary and the existing access to the carport on Akieva's lot traveled over Gerald's property. After obtaining the property, Gerald erected a chain-link fence around his property. This fence cut off the existing access road to Akieva's lot and forced individuals enter-

ing her lot to make a sharp 90-degree turn onto the property from the easement road.

Akieva brought a motion before the probate court seeking an easement over Gerald's property for the benefit of her property. Akieva alleged that she was entitled to an easement based on Reyes' previous use of Gerald's property to access the house on Akieva's property. Noting that the easement dispute between Gerald and Akieva was "related to" Reyes' estate since both properties originated as estate property, the High Court held that the probate court had jurisdiction to hear the easement claim.

On appeal, Gerald argued that the probate court did not have jurisdiction to hear the easement claim because the probate

court has only the jurisdiction conferred upon it by statute. The Supreme Court analyzed the probate court jurisdictional statute, which provides probate courts with jurisdiction "over all subject matter relating to the estates of decedents," as well as other Commonwealth cases and cases from other jurisdictions with similar probate statutes.

Noting that the easement dispute between Gerald and Akieva was "related to" Reyes' estate since both properties originated as estate property, the High Court held that the probate court had jurisdiction to hear the easement claim.

As for the merits of the probate court's grant of the easement, the High Court looked to whether Reyes expressed intent not to grant an easement to Akieva and to whether the easement was reasonably necessary to Akieva's use and enjoyment of her property. Regarding intent, the justices affirmed the probate court's holding that there was no evidence of intent not to grant an easement. As for whether the easement was reasonably necessary to Akieva's use of the property, the justices reviewed evidence relied upon by the probate court, including the difficulty of accessing Akieva's property without an easement and testimony that exiting the property currently requires trespassing on another adjacent property. Based on this evidence, the High Court affirmed the probate court's granting of an easement to Akieva.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is *In re Estate of Charles P. Reyes*, 2012 MP 13, and can be found at [\(NMI Judiciary\)](http://www.cnilaw.org/supreme_12.htm)



FACTORY BLAZE

Thick smoke billows from the windows of the former Winners/Pang Jin Garment in Chalan Lau Lau Wednesday afternoon. Heavy rain helped firefighters in extinguishing the blaze that gobbed the interior of the abandoned factory. The cause of the fire remains unknown as of press time.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Let's Move Marianas! goes to Mount Carmel School

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Students of Mount Carmel School learned of some healthy tips and a couple of energetic moves when the Let's Move Marianas campaign of the Division of Public Health visited the campus this week to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Led by Public Health director Roxanne Diaz, Mount Carmel students were taught about the importance of fighting childhood obesity and childhood cancer.

Diaz was joined by campaign member Amber Mendiola, who taught the students about healthy nutrition as well as the campaign's signature dance routine.

Diaz explained to students that junk food is called that for a reason, citing the amount of sugar and fats that saturate many of the snacks students eat.

In an effort to enforce healthy nutrition, Diaz went so far as to challenge school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero to ban all junk food on campus.

In response, Deleon Guerrero said that he has already taken steps to limit junk food at the school and all other schools in the CNMI.

He said that as a member of the CNMI State Board of Education, he voted to adopt the new nutrition standards of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Under these new standards, food vendors in schools are required to provide more nutritious food options and to limit junk food on their menus.

The morning's focus on nu-

trition then shifted to physical activity as Mendiola invited students to follow the Let's Move Marianas choreographer in learning a simple but energetic dance routine. Students and teachers all followed along to moves that made them jog, dance, groove, and sweat.

Junior Class president Kaylani Lebria, who is also an accomplished athlete, particularly liked seeing her teachers dancing. "Seeing the teachers dance was something new. It was nice to see them having fun," she said.

The dance routine will be incorporated into a flash mob that will be staged at the Let's Move Marianas signature event on Sept. 29 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Filial administration endorsed September as CNMI Childhood Cancer and Childhood Obesity Awareness Month with the theme "Let's Move Marianas!"

The campaign is part of first lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move campaign to raise a generation of healthier kids. To learn more about Let's Move Marianas, call 236-8638 or email letsmovemarianas@gmail.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Monday, September 24, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. at the Mayor's Office Conference Room, 1st Floor, in San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Roll Call
 - 3. Adoption of Agenda
 - 4. Adoption of Minutes

a. 09/06/2012 Regular Board Meeting

- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS 1

- III. EXECUTIVE SESSION 2

- IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - 1. Review and Adoption of the 2012 Fall Semester, Academic Year 2012-2013 Applications

- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - 1. Review and Comment-Municipal Scholarship Act Amendments: S.L. 17-85

- VII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

- VIII. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING

- IX. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ LYDIA F. BARCINAS
Chairwoman

¹ We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each.
² Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

³ Pursuant to CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time. Individuals with disabilities requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB Office 48 hours prior to scheduled meeting for assistance.

Fitial extends CUC, CHC emergency declarations anew

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial extended anew his executive orders declaring a state of emergency for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. which allows him to have direct control over these agencies and suspend procurement laws or rules to address those emergencies for at least another 30 days.

Fitial signed the two separate EO's on Wednesday, a few days after the previous

EOs lapsed.

In the CHC executive order, Fitial suspended all statutory or regulatory provisions and allowed for the reprogramming of funds to address the emergency.

The governor extended the CHC emergency declaration two days after the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services placed CHC under a severe sanction of "immediate jeopardy," which could result in loss of funding support from the federal agency.

CHC has 23 days to get into compli-

ance before funding is cut. Immediate jeopardy indicates that the provider's noncompliance with one or more requirements of participation in the Medicare and Medicaid program has or is "likely to cause serious injury, harm, impairment, or death."

In the CUC executive order, Fitial again assumed all of the executive power of CUC, including those vested in the board of directors and the executive director.

He also continued the suspension of Public Law 17-34 concerning the Pub-

lic Utilities Commission's regulation of CUC and its actions and any oversight of renewable energy contracts.

The emergency declaration also continues to allow CUC to hire foreign nationals for services needed.

Some House members, including

Kosrae joins effort to create massive shark sanctuary

KOSRAE, Federated States of Micronesia—Kosrae has become the first member of the Federated States of Micronesia to establish shark protections in its waters. The unanimous vote by the legislature in Kosrae, a small island of 7,700 people in the Pacific, is an important step in the creation of the world's first regional shark sanctuary, which will encompass 2 million square miles of ocean. The legislation now heads to Gov. Lyndon Jackson's desk for signature.

"The protection of sharks fits into an even larger conservation goal for Micronesia," said Gov. Lyndon Jackson. "This goal, called the Micronesia Challenge, seeks to effectively conserve 30 percent of nearshore resources. But some species, especially sharks, swim in and out of protected areas, so additional policies are needed."

When signed into law, the Kosrae sanctuary will ban the sale, trade, and possession of shark products in Kosrae and prohibit commercial shark fishing in the 12-mile area under its jurisdiction. Sen. Tulensa Palik, vice chairman of the state's Committee on Resources and Development, introduced the bill.

"This is an extremely important piece of legislation," said Palik. "I am



Each year, up to 73 million sharks are killed by people, largely for their fins to supply the demand for shark fin soup.

SHAWN HEINRICH

proud to have Kosrae be a part of a global movement to protect sharks and the health of our ocean."

During the Micronesian Chief Executive Summit in July 2011, Jackson and other leaders pledged to join a much larger effort to create the Micronesia Regional Shark Sanctuary. The agreement includes all four members of the Federated States of Micronesia—Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae—as well as the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Palau, and the Marshall Islands. It will result in a regional sanctuary covering 2 million square miles.

"Micronesia is leading the world in shark conservation," said Jill Hepp, director of shark conservation at the Pew Environment Group

Environment Group. "Kosrae is an important piece in the puzzle to protect sharks in the region."

"Conservation has always been an integral part of life in Kosrae," said Andy George, executive director of the Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization. "This is something our people wanted."

Each year, up to 73 million sharks are killed by people, largely for their fins to supply the demand for shark fin soup. Of the 150 species of shark assessed as Threatened or Near Threatened with extinction by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, at least 30 are known to swim in Micronesia's waters, including scalloped hammerheads, whale sharks, oceanic whitetips, and several species of reef sharks.

If the other members of the Federated States of Micronesia move forward with their plan to create a sanctuary in the next year, 2.9 million square kilometers (1.1 million square miles) will be added to the more than 4.7 million square kilometers (1.8 million square miles) of ocean worldwide that have already been protected by six shark sanctuaries: Palau, the Maldives, Tokelau, Honduras, the Bahamas, and the Marshall Islands. (*Pew Environment Group*)

SNUB

From Page 1

ments of Commonwealth Code Title 1, Section 1302."

"Therefore, Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Warren, and Mr. Young will not be appearing to testify at the committee's hearing," Wrightson told Deleon Guerrero.

Citing that particular statute, Deleon Guerrero said a person being served a subpoena needs to be given at least five days to testify, unless a shorter time is necessary, "and if a shorter time is necessary, it has to be approved by the majority of the members and so we did do that."

In the notice given to Fletcher, however, the committee did not indicate that the majority of the panel approved his appearance in less than five days.

Deleon Guerrero said the CUC legal counsel also pointed out that the subpoena did not indicate that the CUC officials should appear with their counsels.

House legal counsel Joe Taijeron, who helped draft the subpoenas, said yesterday that they made minor technical mistakes. He, however, said the panel assumed that CUC officials would bring their counsels anyway.

Wrightson, in her one-pager letter to the committee chair, said, "Should the committee decide to reissue subpoenas that comply with the Commonwealth Code, Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Warren, and

Mr. Young will appear as requested."

The committee voted to revise the subpoenas that have yet to be sent out, and send amended subpoenas for those that were already sent, to add language indicating the committee approved the appearance of witnesses less than five days from receipt of the notice and that they should bring their counsel if they so choose.

Because Fletcher is going off-island, his and other CUC officials' scheduled appearance before the panel will be moved to a later date.

Deleon Guerrero said he spoke by phone to the CUC legal counsel, who he said "needs more time to prepare for this."

"I think it's because the testimony that will be provided during this proceeding is admissible in court and there's a court case pending, the TRO. They want to be prepared," Deleon Guerrero said.

He added that the redrafting and rescheduling of hearings will impact the committee's timeline, although he said they would still be able to meet the 30-day deadline, which ends on Oct. 13.

Deleon Guerrero said that's because Aug. 13 was the first meeting of the committee, so the 30 days started from that date, and not on the day the committee was created by the speaker.

Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan) said he has some questions for Fletcher, given that during a hearing at the Senate in

August, Fletcher said he didn't know that a \$190.8-million power purchase agreement had been signed, only to hear the governor a week or two later telling the media that Fletcher was there on the day Fitial and then attorney general Edward T. Buckingham signed the deal on Aug. 3.

"It is more of setting the record straight. Integrity and sincerity is in question here," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune*.

All eight members of the Special Committee on Impeachment were present yesterday.

The panel is tasked to review and make recommendations to the full House on a resolution impeaching the governor.

House Resolution 17-111 lists 16 articles of impeachment against Fitial for felony, corruption, and neglect of duty.

The committee also crossed off from its list of witnesses three individuals, including former Corrections commissioner Dolores Aldan, because she's off-island.

Aldan was the Corrections commissioner when a federal inmate was temporarily taken out of jail to be transported to the governor's house to give the governor a massage. This "massage incident" is the subject of allegations of corruption and felony.

The two others who won't be subpoenaed anymore are Abigail Borja and Linda Ongelungel because either they're off island or can't be located.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) and House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), have been saying that the House should not always automatically accept the governor's emergency declarations, to no avail.

Fitial's executive orders have not been challenged by the House, only by the Senate. Amendments need the action of both the House and Senate.

Coast Guard sends new response boat to Guam

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Coast Guard delivered a new 45-foot boat, the Response Boat-Medium 45702, to Station Apra Harbor, Guam on Sept. 15, 2012. The USCG is currently replacing its fleet of 41-foot utility boats with the RB-Ms series craft.

This is the second RB-M scheduled to be stationed at Apra Harbor. RB-Ms are designed to meet Coast Guard mission requirements for search and rescue; ports, waterways and coastal security; drug interdiction; and migrant interdiction. Additionally, the RB-M will support marine safety,

SOLDIERS

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He also praised how all the soldiers from CNMI came through a recent Soldier Readiness Processing without any issues. The SRP is where each soldier goes through a review of his or her personnel records, and also undergoes a physical check-up.

LEAKSOURCE

From Page 1

comply with the payment schedule and was subject to losing her family home with the office space above it," CNMI LeakSource said, posting a copy of the 11-page order.

The court order shows Ogumoro owes money to China Color Printing, WinGuide Color Printing Co. Ltd., Benigno Fejeran dba Solid Builders, and Younis Art Studio Inc. dba *Marianas Variety*.

Another document posted on Thursday was an American Samoa news article about DEQ's Castro, who was pulled over by police for speeding, among other things.

Castro was in Pago Pago, American Samoa in August 2012 as one of the CNMI delegates to the 28th meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, which was also attended by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and press secretary Angel Demapan.

Castro, when asked for comment, said the article in *Samoa News* "was sensationalized and events described such as being arrested are untrue."

She said she was charged with reckless driving and speeding for driving at a speed of 32 miles per hour on a 20-mph zone, which she said was "completely unintentional."

"They could not proceed with a DUI because there was lack of evidence. I didn't fail the sobriety tests as indicated because I had a witness who was willing to testify; unfortunately I was in the middle of an enforcement campaign and became a statistic. I know who leaked this source and it is someone who didn't get a job associated with the Micronesia Challenge a few years ago and has since been blaming me for not being hired which I had nothing to do with the decision. This is their way off getting back [at] me," Castro told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) and House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), have been saying that the House should not always automatically accept the governor's emergency declarations, to no avail.

Fitial's executive orders have not been challenged by the House, only by the Senate. Amendments need the action of both the House and Senate.

aids to navigation, marine environmental protection, and defense readiness missions.

"I am pleased that Guam has received the RB-M to help the Coast Guard carry out its duties more effectively," said Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU). "In particular, this response boat will be used to conduct search and rescue missions and will be critical to our readiness capabilities. Further, these boats will assist our Coast Guardsmen in monitoring and identifying illegal fishing activities around Guam." (PR)

"They're committed, dedicated soldiers," Tougher told the family members. He also promised the families that the Guam National Guard leadership will make sure that the battalion soldiers get the training they need to ensure they are well prepared for the deployment.

Close to 60 soldiers and family members attended the briefing last night. (GUARNG)

CNMI LeakSource also posted a court order against Hofschneider, a Precinct 2 candidate under the Republican Party.

Unlike the other documents, this court order dates back to 2004 and orders Hofschneider to pay Mobil \$115,684.82.

The Fitial administration and at least one concerned citizen, however, are urging the public to exercise caution on the nature of information being leaked and posted online as well as the motive behind the postings.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said, "Accountability and transparency in government is the total opposite of anonymous sources."

Concerned citizen Glen Hunter said, "Certain precautions should be taken when leaking information or furthering leaked information," and hopes that the new site "does not allow just any rumor or gossip to make its way into the public domain as 'proven' leaks without due diligence on the part of the site owner."

CNMI LeakSource earlier posted an anonymously leaked bench warrant for Saipan Mayor Donald Flores for failing to appear in court on Dec. 7, 2011, in connection with unpaid debts to Dollar Rent-A-Car. The mayor said he will pay the \$300 cash bail.

CNMI LeakSource claims on its website that it was launched to help end corruption in the CNMI. It said certain corrupt individuals are only able to continue their corruption because the public is largely unaware of their acts.

Through its website, it gives a way for anyone in the CNMI "to take part in whistleblower activities with the safety and comfort of guaranteed anonymity; thus removing any chances of repercussion in the future, and removing any fears of retribution that would normally hold someone back from releasing something that the public deserves to know."

Snakes minus birds equals more spiders in Guam

In one of the first studies to examine how the loss of forest birds is effecting Guam's island ecosystem, biologists from Rice University, the University of Washington and the University of Guam found that the Pacific island's jungles have as many as 40 times more spiders than are found on nearby islands like Saipan.

"You can't walk through the jungles in Guam without a stick in your hand to knock down the spider webs," said Haldre Rogers, a Huxley Fellow in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Rice and the lead author of a new study this week in the open-access journal *PLOS ONE*.

The results are some of the first to examine the indirect impact of the brown tree snake in Guam's ecosystem. The snake, which was accidentally introduced to the island in the 1940s, decimated the island's native bird species in one of the most infamous ecological disasters from an invasive species. By the 1980s, 10 of 12 native bird species had been wiped out, and the last two live only in small areas protected by intense snake-trapping.

Rogers and colleagues are investigating whether the loss of birds led to an increase in the spider population in Guam, since many birds consume spiders, compete with spiders for insect prey and utilize spider

webs in their nests. Small-scale experiments in other ecosystems have consistently shown a link between the presence of birds and the abundance of spiders, but the new study is the first examine the impact of bird loss on the scale of an entire forest.

Counting spider webs in Guam and on nearby islands in the Marianas Islands chain was the first step. Rogers said the difference between the number of spiders she and her colleagues counted in Guam and three nearby islands that still have birds "was far more dramatic than what any small-scale experiments had previously found." She said the findings underscore the importance of using both observed counts and controlled experiments when attempting to predict how entire ecosystems will react to change.

Rogers landed her first job out of college in Guam in 2002. "I had no idea where it was," she recalled. "I had to look it up on a map." She quickly fell in love with the narrow, 30-mile-long island, a mecca for tourists who are drawn by the tropical island's beaches, diving and snorkeling.

The U.S. spends more than \$1 million a year searching airplanes and cargo to prevent the snakes from escaping Guam. However, the reclusive, nocturnal reptiles are extremely hard



A brown tree snake.

WIKIMEDIA.ORG

to find. Rogers said the average resident or tourist in Guam will never see one, and even those who actively hunt them are hard-pressed to find one, which is one reason the snakes have been impossible to eradicate from the island.

Rogers' first job in Guam was to lead the U.S. Geological Survey's brown tree snake rapid response team, a small group of snake hunters charged with capturing brown tree snakes that manage to get off the island. Specifically, the team's mission is to respond within 24 hours of any sighting of a brown tree snake on any island that is served by flights from Guam.

"When I was out there searching for snakes at night, I spent a lot of time thinking about the differences between the forests

I was walking through and the forests back in Guam," Rogers said. The spider webs were just one difference. The lack of songbirds also make Guam's forests eerily quiet during the day, she said. By the time Rogers enrolled in graduate school at the University of Washington in 2005, she had a number of ideas for ecological field studies aimed at measuring and explaining the differences she'd observed.

"There isn't any other place in the world that has lost all of its insect-eating birds," she said. "There's no other place you can look to see what happens when birds are removed over an entire landscape."

One of the first experiments she had in mind was to investigate all those spider webs,

which are much less plentiful elsewhere in the Marianas.

"I certainly wasn't the first to notice the incredible number of spiders in the jungles in Guam, but we were the first to quantify the difference between Guam and nearby islands," Rogers said.

Historically, if ecologists wanted to study how insects reacted to the absence of birds, they would build an "exclosure," a covering designed to keep birds out of their study area. Rogers said most exclosures cover a few branches of one tree, and, in rare cases, an entire tree. Building structures large enough to exclude birds from an entire forest simply isn't affordable, so the brown tree snake has effectively set the stage for experiments that ecologists couldn't otherwise do.

To find out exactly how many spiders were on the island, Rogers' team grabbed a tape measure and spent four months hiking through jungles counting spider webs, as a proxy for spiders. She and study co-authors Janneke Hille Ris Lambers and Josh Tewksbury of the University of Washington and Ross Miller of the University of Guam found that spiders were between two times and 40 times more plentiful in Guam than on neighboring islands.

Rogers said the results were a surprise, because they were

several times more than would have been predicted from simply scaling up the numbers from small-scale exclosure studies.

"None of the small-scale experiments recorded that kind of increase," Rogers said. "It suggests that the small-scale experiments had gotten the interaction correct—there is an increase in spiders when you lose birds—but they may have underestimated the effect size."

Rogers said the result "shows that birds have a strong effect on spiders. Anytime you have a reduction in insectivorous birds, the system will probably respond with an increase in spiders. With insectivorous birds in decline in many places in the world, I suspect there has been a concurrent increase in spiders."

In future work, she plans to conduct exclosure experiments on neighboring islands that still have forest birds and compare those results with observations in Guam to determine the exact links between the lost forest birds and the spider population increases.

"Ultimately, we aim to untangle the impact of bird loss on the entire food web, all the way down to plants," she said. "For example, has the loss of birds also led to an increase in the number of plant-eating insects? Or can this increase in spiders compensate for the loss of birds?" (scienceblog.com)



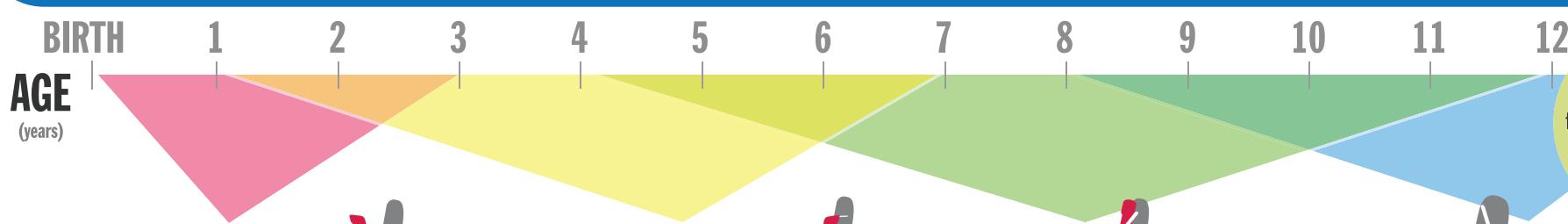
NATIONAL/CNMI CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK

SEPTEMBER 16 – 22, 2012



Car Seat Recommendations for Children

- Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, and choose a seat that fits in your vehicle and use it every time.
- Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions; read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system; and check height and weight limits.
- To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
- Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.



REAR-FACING CAR SEAT

Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.

FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.

BOOSTER SEAT

Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

SEATBELT

Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snug across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.

DESCRIPTION (RESTRAINT TYPE)

A REAR-FACING CAR SEAT is the best seat for your young child to use. It has a harness and is a crash, cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.

A FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT has a harness and tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.

A BOOSTER SEAT positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.

A SEAT BELT should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Boy Scouts must stay vigilant on molestation

One of the things a Boy Scout must learn by heart is the Scout Law, a list of 12 precepts to live by. A scout, the law asserts in its first point, is "trustworthy." Unfortunately, the organization itself failed that test for a long period in its past.

A story by the Los Angeles Times reveals that from 1970 to 1991, the Boy Scouts of America did not notify authorities or parents of hundreds of cases of suspected child molestation. The Times' findings were based on 1,600 confidential files that were part of a blacklist of adults barred from participation in the organization.

In a 1982 case, a Michigan camp director said he didn't report repeated abuse allegations involving a staff member because the director's higher-ups wanted to protect the individual's reputation, as well as that of the Scout organization. In a 1987 Washington case, one district official complained to the national office that his superior refused to blacklist a former scoutmaster with a molestation conviction. The reason? He had "done so much for camp and is a nice guy."

In recent years, however, the Boy Scouts have cracked down on potential abusers more aggressively. Under the Youth Protection policy, names are added to the blacklist, officially known as the Ineligible Volunteer Files, "whether or not the allegations are proven." In the late 1980s, a "two-deep leadership" policy went into effect, requiring at least two adults for all activities and barring adults from being alone with a scout.

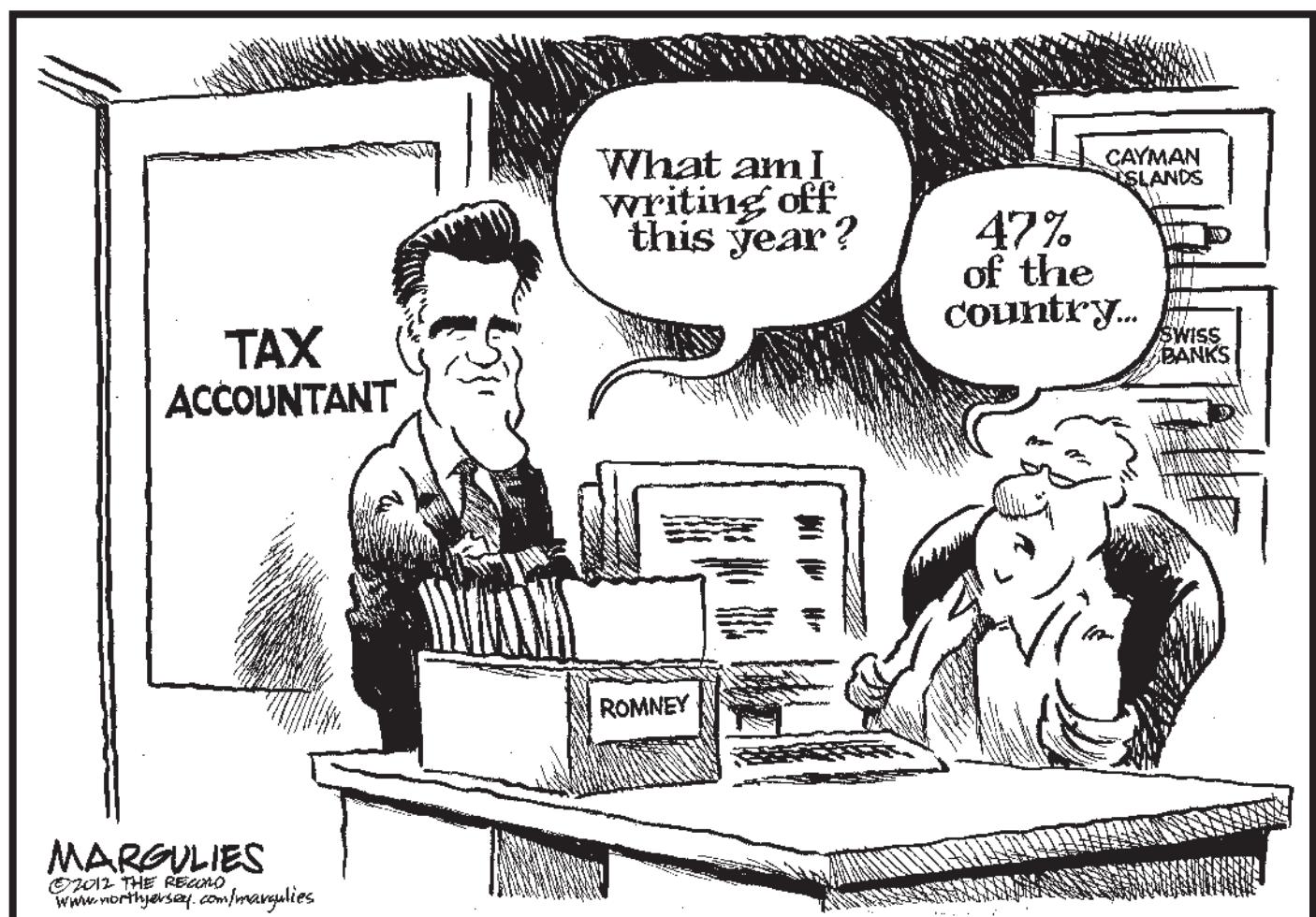
Kansas City writer Diana Reese explained in The Washington Post how the policy works. She spent several days this summer at the H. Roe Bartle Scout camp near Osceola, Mo. Reese wrote that she and the other adults "follow the BSA rules, even when it's a hassle—such as having to have two adults wake up in the middle of the night to administer eye drops when a Scout has pink eye."

The rule not only protects boys, it protects adults from unfounded accusations.

Policies have been further toughened in recent years. Adults must pass a national criminal background check and complete an online "youth protection" course that outlines the proper policies as well as how to recognize signs of abuse. In 2010, adult leaders were required to report abuse suspicions directly to local authorities, whether or not it's required by state law.

More eye-opening cases from what many call the scouts' "perversion files" may come to light. But in recent years the organization has done a good job protecting boys and reducing opportunities for potential molesters. Reports of past problems serve as reminders that scout leaders can't afford to diminish their vigilance.

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Are businessmen better presidents?

It's one of Mitt Romney's favorite lines: America needs a businessman in the White House. It's "a basic qualification" for the job, he said in his speech at the Republican convention last month, "one that's essential to (the) task."

But what does history tell us? Have our greatest presidents come from the ranks of industry and commerce?

Not by any means.

Of the three presidents generally ranked the greatest—George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt—only Washington had real business experience, and that was as an 18th century plantation owner. (Lincoln ran a modest law practice in Illinois but, as Clint Eastwood said at the convention, lawyers don't count.)

And more recently? A 2009 survey of historians conducted by C-SPAN identified the best presidents since World War II as Ronald Reagan, an actor and union leader; Dwight D. Eisenhower, a career Army officer; Harry S. Truman, a failed haberdasher; and John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson and Bill Clinton, all career politicians.

Several presidents with business experience have been elected since World War II, but none is counted among the greats. George H.W. Bush started an oil drilling firm in Texas, but most of his career was as a politician and diplomat. George W. Bush followed in his father's footsteps but less successfully; when he ran for president, he touted his achievements as governor of Texas, not as an oilman or baseball executive. The first Bush presidency ended after one term, the second in a financial collapse.

There was also Jimmy Carter, who, like Romney, was a governor and Washington outsider who pointed with pride to his management experience—in Carter's case, as a peanut farmer. But it's safe to say that Carter isn't the model Romney's thinking of.

Other businessmen have run for president and failed. H. Ross Perot ran as a third-party candidate in 1992 and 1996. Herman Cain of Godfather's Pizza made a brief run for the Republican nomination this year. Donald Trump threatened to run but opted to back Romney instead.

In fact, the list of successful businessmen who became great politicians is surprisingly short.

Why? In part because running a successful business and a successful public administration (or even a successful electoral campaign) don't have all that much in common. As long ago as 1979, Harvard scholar Graham Allison compared the demands of private enterprise and public administration and concluded that they were alike only "in all unimportant respects."

"The differences are more important than the similarities," Allison wrote.

Among the differences: Businessmen have clear, measurable goals (mainly increasing profits); political leaders' aims are less precise (except for winning the next election).

Entrepreneurs can constantly revamp their companies to adjust to the changing environment; political leaders are stuck running government institutions that resist structural change.

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him e-mail at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.



"In business," former Secretary of State George P. Shultz told me long ago, "you have to be careful when you tell someone working for you to do something because he'll actually go out and do it. In government, you don't have to worry about that."

And while businessmen work in a competitive marketplace, they normally don't have to negotiate budget deals with an opposition that's constantly trying to discredit whatever they do.

It's "like being the quarterback of a team chosen by your opponents," one successful businessman turned politician complained in 1964. That was Michigan Gov. George W. Romney, the current candidate's father.

So while the younger Romney certainly had success in building Bain Capital, a hedge fund that invested in troubled companies and start-ups, that by no means guarantees that a Romney presidency would be a triumph—or even that he will be elected.

Until now, the Romney campaign has had a simple theory of how to win the election—its business plan, if you will. Romney and his strategists assumed that voters' frustration with the slow pace of economic recovery would make them open to the idea of firing Barack Obama as president. That part of the plan was correct.

If Romney ran a steady, unadventurous and error-free campaign, and made sure the voters knew that he was a successful businessman who knew how to turn things around, a majority would naturally end up in his camp, they believed.

Only that hasn't happened. Romney's campaign hasn't been error-free. His most recent stumble, a closed-door speech in which he wrote off 47 percent of the voters as "victims" because of their reliance on government benefits, reflected a peculiar economic determinism; most Republicans know that low-income Americans don't always vote according to that narrow definition of financial interest.

Meanwhile, the Obama campaign spent much of the summer attacking Romney's record as a businessman, telling voters that his career revealed that he was intent on helping the upper class more than the middle class.

"Our failure to respond adequately to those attacks has been the biggest strategic error of this campaign," one Romney activist told me this week.

"I know what it takes to turn around difficult situations," Romney often says, pointing to his record at Bain. He meant it as a qualification for being president, but first he'll have to show how his business acumen can fix a sputtering campaign.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

We, the parasites

By JUDY DUGAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

My husband and I, recently retired, are among the people that Mitt Romney described with such disdain in the fundraiser video revealed Monday. We are dependent on federal and state entitlements.

Romney aimed his scorn at the "47 percent (of Americans) who pay no federal income taxes" and "feel entitled to health care," among other things.

Our household does not pay zero taxes, but our federal income taxes are a fraction of what we paid as full-time workers. Our Social Security income is untaxed. The substantial value of our Medicare is not subject to taxes. Both of us were helped over rough spots throughout our lives by federal entitlements. Without them, we would not be enjoying a middle-class retirement in our own home, and we are grateful to our country.

As recent retirees, my husband and I depend on Medicare because without it, comparable individual coverage from, say, Blue Cross would at our age cost more than \$15,000 a year each. We also depend on the federal mortgage deduction and could not own the house we live in without a state benefit that allowed us to carry our low property tax rate to our current retirement home.

Years ago, as a child of the working class, I got a college education with federally backed student loans and a scholarship. The

loan was largely forgiven under another entitlement: a reduction in principal for taking low-paid public service jobs teaching and in the Peace Corps. At times I depended on unemployment insurance, and my husband received federal disability income from Social Security for a few years.

Our work will now be as volunteers, so we are not "job creators" in the eyes of Romney. We have met volunteers from families paying zero income tax because of low income and federal child credits (though the wage earners in those families pay the same rate as Romney on Social Security and Medicare taxes). They give of their time while also striving for better lives.

Finally, my husband and I benefit from one more federal entitlement—except it's not aimed at the elderly or the struggling. It's the 15 percent federal tax cap on capital gains.

For us, such investment gains are a tiny fraction of our income. But they are virtually all the income of billionaire hedge fund managers. Multimillionaires like Romney who live almost entirely off their stock and bond portfolios are also top beneficiaries.

A decade ago, investors paid at the personal income rate—up to 35 percent or more—on their realized investment gains. Congress and the George W. Bush administration capped most such gains at the rate at 15 percent in 2003. Loath to be seen "increasing" taxes, Congress keeps renewing the cap. And it is an entitlement just as much as food stamps, income tax credits for families with children, and Medicaid. It is paid for by all taxpayers for the benefit of

some. Except, of course, that in the case of capital gains, the benefit increases with wealth and will increase even more if Romney is elected and gets his way.

He, running mate Paul Ryan and other conservatives would like to steeply cap, cut or cap and privatize entitlements. Medicare, in one of their schemes, would ultimately become a voucher system for the benefit of for-profit companies. Only one entitlement, the capital gains tax cap, would be vastly expanded; Romney proposes to cut the gains tax from 15 percent to 0 percent for some taxpayers. Ryan would like to do away with the tax altogether. A separate proposal could eliminate corporate dividend taxes.

Thus Americans who in Romney's view "believe the government has a responsibility to them, who believe they are victims, who believe they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing" would help fund the yachts of billionaires through reductions in their food stamps or child care credits. Others of us might pay for their luxuries through limits on and fees for our Medicare and perhaps taxes on our Social Security.

Depending on which capital gains tax plan came to pass, Romney could personally benefit by millions a year—a windfall he would no doubt feel eminently entitled to. Maybe he'd use it to create jobs for us as his elderly maid and butler.

Judy Dugan is a former journalist and consumer advocate who lives in Oxnard, Calif. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

The fact-checkers need some checking, too

By CATHY YOUNG
NEWSDAY

The fact-checkers need some checking, too

Fact-checking the statements of politicians, a growing trend in recent years, has been especially visible in this year's presidential campaign, thanks to the likes of Politifact.com, Factcheck.org and fact-checkers in the mainstream media as well.

Democrats have latched on to fact-checkers' reports labeling Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan serial liars. Republicans have claimed the supposedly independent fact-checkers are liberal journalists in bed with the Democrats. Is such fact-checking a legitimate enterprise, or an attempt to hide bias behind a neutral facade? Who will fact-check the fact-checkers?

Take one widely ridiculed Ryan "lie": the claim that President Barack Obama broke a campaign promise to keep a Janesville, Wis., auto plant open if elected. Several fact-checking reports labeled the charge false because it implied that the plant had closed on Obama's watch; in fact, it ceased production in December 2008—before Obama took office.

Not so fast, said conservative bloggers. Some operations at the plant continued well into 2009. Moreover, the plant is still "on standby" and could be reopened (though its prospects dimmed when

General Motors decided to reopen another idled plant, in Tennessee). The Janesville plant was already slated for shutdown in February 2008 when then-candidate Obama chose it as the location for a major speech and said, "I believe that if our government is there to support you ... this plant will be here for another hundred years." A few months later he reiterated that, as president, he would "lead an effort to retool plants like the GM facility in Janesville."

Of course Obama made no guarantee to keep the plant open. But Ryan's basic point—that Obama made a lot of grand promises on which he did not deliver—stands.

For a much more complex fact-checking debate, there's the question of whether the Obama administration has, as Romney charges, sought to "gut" the work requirement for welfare recipients that was central to President Bill Clinton's 1996 welfare reform. Democrats dismiss this claim as "thoroughly debunked": according to fact-checkers at Politifact, CNN.com and other venues, the Obama administration has merely agreed to grant waivers at the request of states—some led by Republican governors—and only if the states can demonstrate that their proposals can ultimately move more people into jobs.

But some experts—not only Robert Rector of the conservative Heritage Foundation, but also maverick Democrat Mickey Kaus—have ventured to rebut the rebuttal. They argue that the waivers come with such flexible standards they could make the work requirement

meaningless. Even Ron Haskins, an analyst with the Brookings Institution, who supports the waivers, thinks they represent a major enough change to the 1996 law to need congressional approval.

Especially on complex policy issues, facts are rarely just facts. Is Obama's health care law a "government takeover" of health care, or merely an expansion of government's role? Would Ryan's Medicare reform plan represent the "end" of Medicare, or merely an overhaul? Is rhetorical exaggeration a lie? Is an out-of-context statement false?

Not all questionable fact-checks are slanted left. Factcheck.org brands as a falsehood the Obama camp's claim that the Republican Party platform would ban abortion even in cases of rape and incest: the platform simply doesn't mention these exemptions. Yet, since it states that "the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life," is it illogical to conclude that this right would apply to unborn children conceived through rape?

Liberal bias or no, it's always a slippery slope from fact-checking to fact interpretation and labeling dissenting analysis a lie. What should pundits do? Either offer clearly labeled opinions, or present the facts as thoroughly as they can and leave readers to draw conclusions.

Cathy Young is a regular contributor to Reason magazine and the website RealClearPolitics. This was written for Newsday.

The fall's must-read political book

By WILLIAM MCKENZIE
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

If you can read only one political book this fall, pick up Mickey Edwards' "The Parties Versus the People: How to Turn Republicans and Democrats Into Americans." His ideas offer a reassuring way forward, assuming you think both major parties should move past their tribal rivalries. You especially should read the former congressman's new book if you think neither party has a monopoly on truth. And, if you are a die-hard partisan, man, you really should read it.

Edwards served 16 years as a GOP House member from Oklahoma. He became his party's fourth-ranking House member in the 1990s. And he chaired the American Conservative Union.

These credentials mean that he's no outsider throwing stones over the village gate. Edwards has been in the system, believes in two-party government—but thinks it's not serving Americans well.

He contends—rightly—that the major parties are the problem. Here's how Edwards, now with the Aspen Institute in Washington, summarizes his thesis:

"My purpose is not to silence partisan voices, but rather to take away the parties' ability to silence the voices of those who are not the choice of party insiders."

The control starts with the choices that voters get served on Elec-

tion Day. Just look at the choices coming up this year: Congressional incumbents largely are running in safe House districts. If the seat's open, competitors often represent their party's dominant wing.

Exceptions exist. But loyalists usually win nomination races, thanks to primaries that reward the faithful. Voters in November rarely get a choice between candidates who know they must win votes from the other party or from independents.

As Edwards writes, the lack of options is jarring compared to the rest of American life, where we have alternatives in everything from soaps to phones to colleges. Oddly, when it comes to representative government, we get little choice.

Edwards offers several remedies, the most intriguing being an open-primary system. After long battling party insiders, California reformers succeeded this year in getting their state to hold one big open primary.

Candidates from both parties competed in the same contest. The top two finishers, regardless of their party affiliation, are headed to the general election.

We need to see how well this works. But, as Edwards explains, it does take away the parties' ability to control access to the ballot.

Of course, once a candidate gets to Congress, he or she still must face the powerful grip of party bosses. Edwards draws upon his knowledge of Congress to suggest how to remake its culture.

This part of his book is like reading a baseball veteran's insights into

how a team can change its play on the field. We could get more government leaders, instead of party leaders, with these two changes:

First, require that the speaker of the House win at least 60 percent of the chamber's votes. The bipartisan No Labels group has embraced this concept. And Edwards argues this would force speaker candidates to listen to more than the majority of the majority.

That's what happened in Texas when GOP Speaker Joe Straus needed Democratic votes to first get his post. In his initial session as head of the Texas House, he had to heed more than his party's majority.

Second, the House Rules Committee should have an equal number of Republicans and Democrats. This insider panel matters because it decides which bills and amendments the full House debates.

Not surprisingly, the party controlling the House has the most members, all of them loyalists. Edwards proposes equal numbers from both parties so neither side gags the other's measures.

The House won't make that change on its own, so it's up to us as Americans to press for it. Perhaps then we could get partisans acting more like Americans. It's our democracy, so let's get moving.

William McKenzie is an editorial columnist for The Dallas Morning News. Readers may write to him at the Dallas Morning News, Communications Center, Dallas, Texas 75265; email: wmckenzie@dallasnews.com

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 87° ▼ 78°

▲ 88° ▼ 78°

▲ 88° ▼ 78°

▲ 88° ▼ 78°

▲ 88° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Palau	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 74
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 74
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 60 ▼ 52
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 58
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 81
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 62 ▼ 47
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 67
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 63 ▼ 50
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 76
New York	Thundershowers	▲ 80 ▼ 60
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 68
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 67 ▼ 50
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 75 ▼ 65
Rome	Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 61
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▼ 47
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 56
Seoul	Showers	▲ 75 ▼ 61
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 80 ▼ 69
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 58

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:06 AM	6:13 PM	Today	11:53 AM	11:31 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM	Sunday	12:50 PM	
Monday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM	Monday	1:43 PM	12:30 AM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM	Tuesday	2:33 PM	1:28 AM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM	Wednesday	3:19 PM	2:25 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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■ ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

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A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SAR

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235-3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPT 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062 2:40am 3:10am 1, 3, 5

SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062 2:40am 3:15am 1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7

UA5062 4:50am 5:40am 1, 3, 5

UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily

UA5074 11:30am 12:20pm 1, 4, 5, 7

UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily

UA5078 6:50pm 7:40pm Daily

UA5072 9:55pm 10:45pm Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287 6:05am 8:45am Daily

DL285 6:30am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7

DL297 4:35pm 7:20pm Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606 2:20am 6:00am 1

OZ606 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

OZ604 3:30pm 6:55pm Daily

DL287/288 6:05am 8:45am Daily

DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 2, 4, 6, 7

DL288 8:15pm 12:50am+1 Daily

DL287/288 6:05am 8:45am Daily

DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 2, 4, 6, 7

DL288 8:15pm 12:50am+1 Daily

DL287/288 6:05am 8:45am Daily

DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 2, 4, 6, 7

DL288 8:15pm 12:50am+1 Daily

DL287/288 6:05am 8:45am Daily

DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 2, 4, 6, 7

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DL288 8:15pm 12:50am+1 Daily

DL287/288 6:05am 8:45am Daily

DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 2, 4, 6, 7

DL288 8:15pm 12:50am+1 Daily

DL287/288 6:05am 8:45am Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC



Mt. Carmel Cathedral

Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center

Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish

Sunday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish

Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish

Monday-Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish

Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8:11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota

Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota

Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish

Monday-Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish

Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass

Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish

Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios

Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday-Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday:

PROTESTANT

8:30am-12pm

Amen Church

Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian

(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8:10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan

Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Church 360

Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building). Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116
Celebration Service: Sunday at 10:15am
Prayer Fellowship: Wednesday at 6:00pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan

Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road

Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road, Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan

Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GFI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan

Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church

Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm

Immanuel Methodist Church

(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan

Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan

Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm

Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm

Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Living Hope Church of the Nazarene

Isa Drive, I-Denni Hill across from Ponderosa Heights
Bible Studies for all ages: Sunday at 10:00 am
Worship: Sunday at 11:00 am
Pastor Dave Bucher, 256-1142

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan

English Worship Service: 9:10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9:10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry

Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church

Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.

Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center

Sunday School: 9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)

Sunday worship 8:30am

Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church

Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ

Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church

(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan

(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville

Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services

Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan

Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Piao, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times

Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Guadalupe, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian

Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am
Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church

(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 22, 1999

Scholarship program gets \$1 million

Legislators will boost funding for the government scholarship program by about \$1 million to try to deal with anticipated deficit that threatens to cut substantial financial assistance to off-island students as well as those attending the Northern Marianas College. Members of the House Ways and Means have decided to slash proposed appropriation for the purchase of new computer hardware to realign funds to the Scholarship's Office, according to its chair Rep. Karl T. Reyes. He said the committee has identified these money as possible source for much-needed funding for financial aid provided to local students, adding that at least a million dollars is expected to be generated from such move.

Inos' expending power over CIP funds OK'd

Acting Gov. Jesus R. Sablan signed new three laws yesterday, including a measure granting expenditure authority to Commissioner of Education, Rita H. Inos, over close to \$30 million in fresh funding for capital improvement projects of the Public School System. The two other laws, meanwhile, amend the statute that created the Board of Professional Licensing as well as the Fire Safety Code which the Legislature enacted recently. In Public Law 11-100 concerning the PSS funds, Sablan said giving spending power to Inos would avoid jeopardizing construction of the infrastructure projects that were part of an initial appropriation bill he approved last month.

Sept. 22, 2000

Airport revenues soar 11 percent</

Maharlika

PH Comelec team in NMI eyed for 2013 election

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General in Agana is looking at requesting the Philippine Commission on Elections to send a team to conduct overseas absentee voting in the CNMI, allowing registered Filipino voters to cast their ballots in person for the 2013 election.

"If possible, we will request them to fly out here and provide us assistance during the voting process," Guam Consul General Bayani V. Mangibin said during a recent visit to Saipan.

Mangibin flew to the Northern Marianas capital with Consul Gary Auxilian on Sept. 10 for a five-day visit in prepara-

tion for taking over the consular responsibilities of the Saipan consulate after its last day on Oct. 31.

The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan will shut down as part of a wider effort to consolidate foreign service posts in the Pacific.

The Guam consulate's request is part of its two-tiered plan to encourage registered Filipino voters in the Commonwealth to exercise their right to elect the nation's succeeding leaders.

The other part of the plan, Mangibin said, is for the Guam consulate to send their team of representatives to conduct the overseas absentee voting on Saipan.

"Should the Comelec team



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Guam Consul General Bayani V. Mangibin is seen being interviewed by KSPN reporter Meghan Bragg following a press conference at the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan on Sept. 13.

not arrive, we will be here definitely. That's our obligation, so we will be here," he told reporters at a news briefing hosted by the Saipan consulate.

Mangibin noted the need to have the registered overseas absentee voters personally appear at a designated polling precinct in hopes to keep the same turnout as that of the May 2010 national elections.

The Saipan consulate posted a record of 7,169 registered absentee voters in the last election, the second highest among Philippine consulates across the U.S. and 10th from all over the world. Of this number, 46.6 percent or 3,341 actually voted.

"We really want to maintain that kind of accomplishment," added Mangibin.

He reminded Filipinos in the

CNMI to register for the overseas absentee voting for the May 2013 election.

The deadline for the registration and certification process is on Oct. 31, a Wednesday, which coincides with the Saipan consulate's closure, he added.

Saipan Consul General Medardo G. Macaraig earlier said that they expect a lower registration turnout for this election due to the decline in the Filipino population in the Commonwealth, attributed mainly to the federalization of the CNMI's immigration system and continued economic downturn on the islands.

For more information, visit the Saipan Consulate at the 5th floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe or call 234-1850.

Consulate, POLO/OWWA to auction office property

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office/Overseas Workers Welfare Administration separately announced that they will auction their office properties and equipment in preparation for the closure of their offices on Saipan.

In an invitation to bid issued on Sept. 11, both the Consulate and the POLO/OWWA invited interested parties to submit sealed bids for these assets on

an "as is, where is" basis. Items include office furniture and fixtures, computers, and printers, and several home appliances.

The consulate's assets are open for inspection from 5pm to 6pm until Oct. 15. The Consulate's Disposal Committee Secretariat will accept sealed bids until Oct. 16.

"No late submissions shall be accepted and all sealed bids shall be immediately opened after the deadline for submission," Consul General Medardo G. Macaraig said in the invitation.

The winning bidder will be

notified on or before Oct. 25 and can take possession of the property or equipment from Nov. 1 to 15 at 3pm, except on weekends and holidays.

Meanwhile, POLO/OWWA items may be inspected until Oct. 4 from 4pm to 6pm. Sealed bids will be accepted until Oct. 4, and the winning bidder will be notified on or before Oct. 8.

Both offices reserve the right to reject any or all bids.

Macaraig said yesterday that the rest of the Saipan consulate property will be turned over to the Guam Consulate for their

use. These include consular vehicles, computers, and machines for ePassport and the overseas absentee voting.

At least one interested party has already submitted a sealed bid to the Saipan consulate while several have done so at the POLO office, disclosed Macaraig and officer-in-charge Julia F. Fabian, respectively.

For more information, call the Consulate Disposal Committee Secretariat at 234-1848 or 1850 and look for property officer Liza Dean. For POLO/OWWA, call 235-3411.



Candidates in the Little Miss Philippines-CNMI pageant learn how to pose for the camera.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Little Ms. PH-CNMI 2012 to be crowned tonight

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After years of hiatus, the Little Miss Philippines-CNMI pageant returns this year with 16 young girls vying for the title and tiara at 7pm tonight at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Presented by Saipan Music & Dance Studio, the pageant will feature 4- to 8-year-old girls competing in the national costumes, talent, and evening gown categories, organizer and choreographer Joel Vallega said yesterday.

Of the 16 aspirants, only

six finalists will be selected to move on to the interview portion where a panel of six judges, composed of adult pageant winners and other community members, will ask them some questions.

The judges will then decide who will win the Little Miss Philippines-CNMI 2012 crown and receive the \$300 cash

prize. The first runner up will take home \$200 while the second runner up gets \$100. The third, fourth, and fifth runners up will receive phones from

Docomo Pacific.

All winners will be presented with a crown, sash, and bouquets of flowers.

Vallega said this will be his first time to put together this pageant, which promises several production numbers by the contestants, most of whom are apprentices at the Saipan Music & Dance Studio.

He spoke well of the candidates, saying that they worked hard to give the audiences a fantastic and exciting show.

Vallega is assisted by veteran

choreographer and event organizer Ernie Molina, who serves as the pageant adviser.

In an interview, Molina said that the Little Miss Philippines-CNMI pageant is designed to promote personal development in these young lasses by honing their talents, helping them overcome shyness, and providing them with ample community exposure.

All 300 tickets to the Little Miss Philippines-CNMI 2012 event are sold out, but Vallega said that tickets will still be sold at the gate for \$7 each.

For more information, call Vallega at 898-1721.

The impending closure of the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan has resulted in the influx of Filipinos availing of consular services in the last few weeks, particularly passport renewal applications.

Consul General Medardo G. Macaraig disclosed in an interview yesterday that passport renewal applications jumped to 40 a day—a 400 percent-increase from their usual daily average of only 10 clients.

Many of the applicants, Macaraig noted, have passports that will not expire until 2013 and 2014.

"With our last day scheduled on Oct. 31, a lot of Filipinos on island are now opting to renew their passports even if they have yet to expire," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The consulate has waived the "formalities" of passport renewal, allowing passport holders whose expiration date for their documents is more than the required six months "in the interest of Filipinos here in the Northern Marianas," said Guam Consul General Bayani V. Mangibin.

Macaraig pointed out that only a handful of the passport renewal applicants have documents expiring within the year. He said these applicants maintain that they do not travel and do not have a reason to renew their travel documents.

Besides passport renewal, many of the Saipan consulate's clients of late apply for

Uptick noted in number of PH passport renewals

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

other consular documents such as report of birth or dual citizenship, said Macaraig.

He urged Filipinos in the Commonwealth to visit the consulate for their consular needs until Oct. 31, its last day of service to the public.

Macaraig, who is scheduled to leave today for a weeklong stay in Manila, said several of their employees are already scheduled to leave before the consulate's last day.

At least three staffers will leave by Oct. 12 to go to their next assignments in Doha, Qatar; Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; and Tel Aviv, Israel.

"They would have to leave earlier as they need several days to work on their visa requirements for their next consular assignment," said Macaraig, who has been assigned to serve at the Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Macaraig said he will return to Saipan on Oct. 1 and meet with Guam Consul Gary Auxilian to finalize the transfer of responsibilities of the Saipan consulate to their counterparts in Guam.

Only two staffers will remain at the Saipan consulate to wrap up any administrative matters or concerns.

Macaraig said he already hosted a modest gathering for Filipino community leaders last Sept. 11 after the leaders' meeting with Auxilian and Mangibin to mark his Oct. 15 departure.

He also expects to make final conference calls and meetings with island leaders before leaving for Malaysia.

AP Exclusive: Unique tombs found in the Philippines

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Archaeologists have unearthed remnants of what they believe is a 1,000-year-old village on a jungle-covered mountaintop in the Philippines with limestone coffins of a type never before found in this Southeast Asian nation, officials said Thursday.

National Museum official Eusebio Dizon said the village on Mount Kamhantik, near Mulanay town in Quezon province, could be at least 1,000 years old based on U.S. carbon dating tests done on a human tooth found in one of 15 limestone graves he and other archaeologists have dug out since last year.

The discovery of the rectangular tombs, which were carved into limestone outcrops jutting from the forest ground, is important because it is the first indication that Filipinos at that time practiced a more advanced burial ritual than previously thought and that they used metal tools to carve the coffins.

Past archaeological discoveries have shown Filipinos of that era used wooden coffins in the country's mountainous north and earthen coffins and jars elsewhere, according to Dizon, who has done extensive archaeological work and studies in the Philippines and 27 other countries over the past 35 years.

Aside from the tombs, archaeologists have found thousands of shards of earthen jars, metal objects and bone fragments of humans, monkeys, wild pigs and other animals in the tombs. The limestone outcrops had round holes where wooden posts of houses or sheds may have once stood, Di-



In this photo taken March 1, 2011 provided by the Philippine National Museum, Filipino archeologists take measurements around a limestone coffin at Mount Kamhantik, near Mulanay town in Quezon province, eastern Philippines. AP

zon told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview.

The tombs were similar to ancient sarcophagi, which have become popular tourist attractions in Egypt and Europe, although the ones found in Mulanay were simple box-like limestone coffins without mythological or elaborate human images on the tops and sides.

Archaeologists have only worked on a small portion of a five-hectare (12-acre) forest area, where Mulanay officials said more artifacts and limestone coffins could be buried.

A preliminary National Museum report said its top archaeologists found "a complex archaeological site with both habitation and burial remains from the period of ap-

proximately 10th to the 14th century ... the first of its kind in the Philippines having carved limestone tombs."

The discovery has been welcomed with excitement in Mulanay, a sleepy coastal town of 50,000 people in an impoverished mountainous region that until recently was best known as a major battleground between army troops and Marxist rebels.

"Before, if you mention this region, people will say 'Oh, that's NPA country,'" Mulanay Mayor Joserito Ojeda said, referring to the New People's Army rebels. "But that era is past and now we can erase that image and this archaeological site will be a big help."

Mulanay tourism officer Sanny Cortez said that after ar-

chaeologists have finished their work in a few years, his town plans to turn Mount Kamhantik's peak into an archaeological and ecotourism park. A museum would also be built nearby.

Despite the loss of thick tree covers in the 1,300-foot

(396-meter) mountain's foot-hills as villagers clear the jungle for homes and farms, the forested mountain still harbors a rich wildlife, including rare hornbills, wild cats and huge numbers of cave bats, including a white one recently seen by envi-

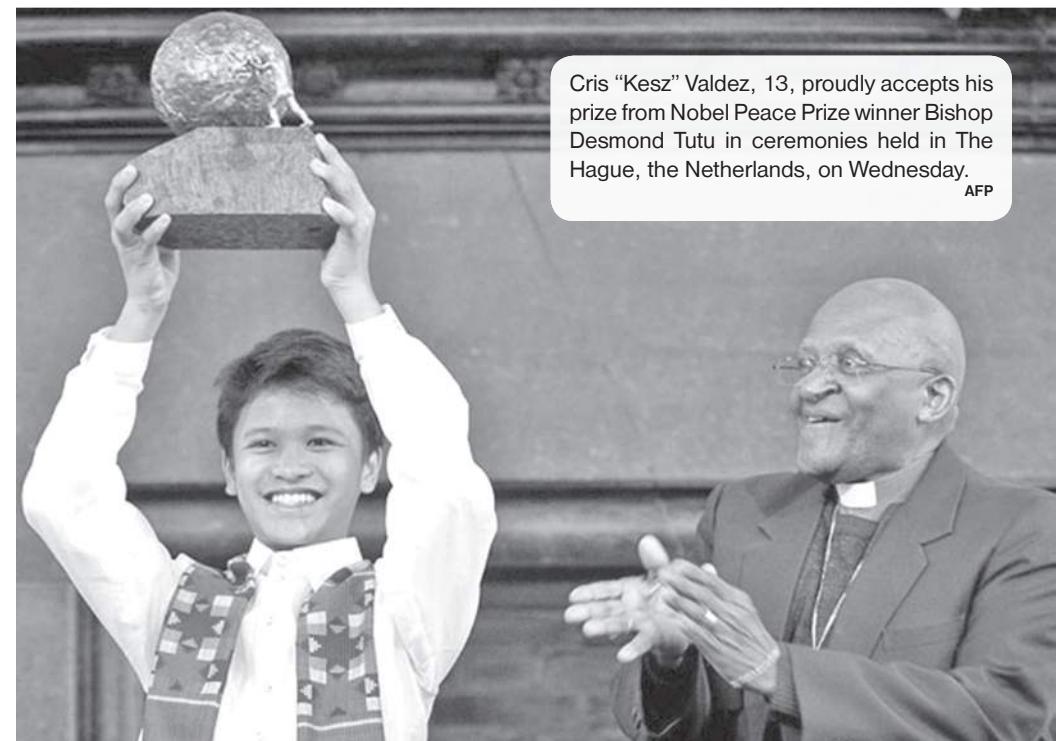
ronmental officials. The mountaintop offers a scenic view of Tayabas Bay and the peak of Mayon volcano, famous for its near-perfect cone, Ojeda said.

The archaeological site is part of 280 hectares (692 acres) of forest land that was declared a government-protected area in 1998 to keep away treasure hunters and slash-and-burn farmers. Treasure hunters looking for gold exposed some of the limestone tombs years ago, but it was only last year that Manila-based archaeologists started to unearth the graves and artifacts and realize the significance of the find.

Treasure hunting has damaged many archaeological sites in the country. In the early 1990s, Filipino archaeologists led by Dizon discovered that 2,000-year-old burial jars with unique human face designs had been destroyed by treasure hunters in a cave in Maitum town in southern Sarangani province.

Archaeologists worked for a few years to glue the sack loads of clay shards piece by piece and restored more than 150 ancient burial jars to shape. Some of the Maitum jars are displayed at the National Museum in Manila with a plan to exhibit them in France next year, Dizon said.

Filipino street kid, 13, wins \$130,000 peace prize



Cris "Kesz" Valdez, 13, proudly accepts his prize from Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu in ceremonies held in The Hague, the Netherlands, on Wednesday. AFP

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Muslim rebels in Philippines kill 3 men in ambush

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine military says Muslim militants have ambushed security guards and laborers from a rubber plantation on a volatile southern island, killing three men and wounding six others. The attack Thursday on Basilan Island, the stronghold of al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militants, is the latest in weeklong assaults against the 1,200-hectare (2,964-acre) plantation despite the military's efforts to protect workers. The government blames the Abu Sayyaf, which is notorious for ransom kidnappings and terrorist attacks over the last two decades. The violence is reportedly rooted in a labor dispute involving the cooperative and dismissed members who are relatives of some of the militant commanders. More than a dozen workers and security guards have been killed in recent months. Military commander Col. Carlito Galvez said Friday that troops are pursuing the attackers.

Philippine police rescue 2 kidnapped Chinese

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police say they have rescued two Chinese businessmen in the restive southern Philippines following a gunfight in which a suspected kidnapper was killed and an officer wounded. Police spokesman Martin Gamba says the two traders from Guangxi and

a Filipino woman were snatched Saturday from a house in Agusan del Sur province. The woman was released the following day but kidnappers demanded a ransom for Defeng Li and Liguan Yang. Gamba said Tuesday that police were tailing a person who was about to deliver ransom money when two assailants fired at the officers. One suspect was killed, another escaped and the Chinese were safely recovered after Monday's shootout. Ransom kidnappings are common in the volatile south, where Muslim rebels are active.

University of Philippines bans anti-Islam film

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The state-run University of the Philippines is stopping students from showing an anti-Muslim video that has sparked violent protests around the globe. Friday's planned public screening of the 14-minute "Innocence of Muslims" video was supposed to be part of a course discussing the Bill of Rights and freedom of expression. College of Law Dean Danilo Conception canceled the open forum. Law professor Harry Roque, who teaches the subject, cited security concerns. The film ridicules the Prophet Muhammad and has triggered Muslim protests in many countries, including last week near a university in predominantly-Muslim Marawi city in the southern Philippines. That region has been roiled by a decades-old Muslim rebellion in the mainly Christian Southeast Asian nation.

THE HAGUE (AFP)—A young Filipino who lived off a rubbish dump and slept in an open tomb has won a prestigious children's award in the Netherlands for his work to improve the rights of his fellow street kids.

Cris "Kesz" Valdez, aged 13, was handed this year's International Children's Peace Prize at a glittering ceremony in The Hague on Wednesday, where he received a 100,000 euro (\$130,000) prize.

Valdez was chosen from three finalists for the work of his "Championing Community Children" charity, which raises funds to hand out gift parcels to needy children in Cavite City, about 30 kilometers (18 miles)

south of the capital Manila.

"You are wonderful," Nobel Peace laureate Desmond Tutu, who handed over this year's prize, told Valdez at a press conference shortly after the ceremony, held in The Hague's historic Knight's Hall.

"My message to children around the world is not to lose hope" and to remember things like hygiene, said Valdez, who added that the prize would help him get an education and perhaps realize his dream of becoming a doctor.

Through his charity, Valdez has handed out more than 5,000 gifts to destitute children that included everyday articles like flip-flops, toys, sweets and

clothes, said the KidsRights Foundation, the prize's initiator.

In all, he has helped some 10,000 children in his area on health, hygiene and children's rights, the foundation added.

Some 246,000 street children are, like Valdez was as a young child, subjected to abuse, violence and child labor in the Philippines, it said.

Asked about the prize money, KidsRights Foundation chairman Marc Dullaert said a committee was now to decide, together with Valdez, to which projects it would be donated.

Archbishop Tutu, the South African peace icon who won the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, is in the Netherlands for a nine-day visit.

Samu't Sari



PINOY PRIDE

Rota Country Club cart attendant Amy Almeda, manager Ephraim V. Tipa, and front desk staffer Nerissa Cayetano smile for the camera before the start of the press conference announcing JMSH LLC's plans to build a casino hotel last Sept. 15.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



REAL-LIFE HERO

Saipan resident Kanis Sinounou is awarded a plaque of heroism on Sept. 19, 2012, at the CNMI Office of the Governor for stopping an attempted robbery of visitors to the island on Sept. 10. Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, third from right, led government and tourism officials in making the presentation. Also pictured from right are Pacific Islands Club Saipan general manager Hiroki Sugie, Marianas Visitors Authority director KJ Kim, MVA vice chair James Nelson, Saipanra's Ekaterina Markova, MVA chair Marian Aldan-Pierce, Sinounou, Inos, Rep. Edmund Villagomez, and MVA managing director Perry Tenorio.

MVA



COURT SECURITY TRAINING

Attendees and instructors of the U.S. Marshal Procedures and Court Security Training have their picture taken after the four-day training symposium sponsored by the Pacific Judicial Council. The training was held from Aug. 20 to 23 under auspices at the U.S. District Court on Guam.

PACIFIC JUDICIAL COUNCIL



NEW GRADUATE

Congratulations to Joel Chico Wabol Kaipat, who is graduating in Reno, Nevada. You are being missed by Vannah but congratulations for accomplishing the task so well, for making all of us so proud and may success be with you always and keep moving forward. Greetings come from Wabol, Kaipat, and Agulto families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy, happy birthday to Lynn Ordonez Mendiola. Greetings come from your Umang and Manta friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



COURTESY CALL

Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig, second from right, from the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan and Philippine Consul General Bayani Mangibin, second from left, and Consul Edgar Tomas Auxilian, left, both of the Philippine Consulate General in Guam, have their picture taken with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, center, during the Philippine diplomats' courtesy call at the Office of the Governor on Sept. 12, 2012. At right is press secretary Angel Demapan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig, right, from the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan and Philippine Consul General Bayani Mangibin, center, and Consul Edgar Tomas Auxilian, second from left, both of the Philippine Consulate General in Guam, have their picture taken with Senate President Paul Manglon, left, and House Speaker Eli Cabrera during the Philippine diplomats' courtesy call at the Legislature on Sept. 12, 2012.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Census: Economy has bottomed out

WASHINGTON (AP)—More young adults are leaving their parents' homes to take a chance with college or a job. Across the nation, people are on the move again after putting their lives on hold and staying put. Once-sharp declines in births are leveling off, and poverty is slowing.

A new snapshot of census data provides sociological backup for what economic indicators were already suggesting: that the nation is in a tentative, fragile recovery.

"We may be seeing the beginning of the American family's recovery from the Great Recession," said Andrew Cherlin, a professor of sociology and public policy at Johns Hopkins University. He pointed in particular to the upswing in mobility and to young men moving out of their parents' homes, both signs that more young adults were testing out job prospects.

"It could be the modest number of new jobs or simply the belief that the worst is over," Cherlin said.

The new 2011 census figures released Thursday show

progress in an economic recovery that technically began in mid-2009. The annual survey, supplemented with unpublished government figures as of March 2012, covers a year in which unemployment fell modestly from 9.6 percent to 8.9 percent.

Not all is well, however. The jobless rate remains high at 8.1 percent. While housing sales have more recently gained, home ownership last year dropped for a fifth straight year to 64.6 percent, the lowest in more than a decade, due to stringent financing rules and a shift to renting. More Americans than ever are turning to food stamps, while residents in housing that is considered "crowded" held steady at 1 percent, tied for the highest since 2003.

Fresh economic data released Thursday added to the mixed picture. The Conference Board's Index of Leading Economic Indicators, designed to forecast future economic activity, dipped 0.1 percent in August after rising 0.5 percent in July and dropping 0.5 percent in June. And the number of Americans seek-

ing unemployment benefits fell only slightly last week.

Taken as a whole, however, analysts say the census data, which track changing patterns in everyday life, provide the latest evidence of a stabilizing U.S. economy. Coming after the devastating housing bust in 2006, such a leveling off would mark an end to the longest and most pernicious economic decline since World War II.

Richard Freeman, an economist at Harvard University, said the data point to a "fragile recovery," with the economy still at risk of falling back into recession, depending in part on who is president and whether Congress averts a "fiscal cliff" of deep government spending cuts and higher taxes in January. "Given the situation in the world economy, we are doing better than many other countries," he said. "Government policies remain critical."

The census figures also show slowing growth in the foreign-born population, which increased to 40.4 million, or 13 percent of the U.S. population.

iPhone 5 launch draws crowds at Asia Apple shops

HONG KONG (AP)—In a now-familiar ritual, Apple's Asian fans jammed the tech juggernaut's shops in Australia, Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore to pick up the latest version of its iPhone.

Eager buyers formed long lines at Apple Inc. stores in Australia and Japan to be the first to get their hands on the latest version of the smartphone. In Hong Kong, buyers had to sign up online for the chance to pick up the device at a preset time. The first customers were greeted by staff cheering, clapping, chanting "iPhone 5! iPhone 5!" and high-fiving them as they were escorted through the front door.

The smartphone is also being launched in the U.S., U.K., Canada, France and Germany on Friday and will go on sale in 22 more countries a week later. The iPhone 5 is thinner, lighter, has a taller screen, faster processor, updated software and can work on faster "fourth genera-

tion" mobile networks.

Order numbers indicate the iPhone 5 has overcome initial lukewarm reviews. Apple received 2 million orders in the first 24 hours of announcing its release date, more than twice the number for the iPhone 4S in the same period when that phone launched a year ago.

Analysts have estimated Apple will ship as many as 10 million of the new iPhones by the end of September.

Some Australian fans went to extreme lengths to be the first to own the new phone, grabbing the first spots in line at Apple's flagship store in downtown Sydney on Tuesday—three days ahead of the release.

Todd Foot, 24, nabbed the coveted first spot and spent an average of 18 hours a day sitting in a folding chair adorned with an Australian flag, and attempting to catch a few hours' sleep each night in a tent on the sidewalk outside the store.

Foot's dedication was largely a marketing stunt, however. He writes product reviews for a technology website which plans to give away the phone after Foot reviews it.

In Hong Kong, not everyone who lined up was an Apple enthusiast. University student Kevin Wong, waiting to buy a black 16 gigabyte model for 5,588 Hong Kong dollars (\$720), said he was getting one "for the cash." He planned to immediately resell it to one of the numerous grey market retailers catering to visiting mainland Chinese buyers. China is one of Apple's biggest sources of revenue but a release date for the iPhone 5 has not yet been set.

Mainland Chinese, who like to shop in Hong Kong because there's no sales tax and because of the strength of the yuan, will probably buy it from the resellers "at a higher price—a way higher price," said Wong, who hoped to make a profit of HK\$1000 (\$129).

Business groups protest Calif. carbon market

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A key component of California's landmark greenhouse gas emissions law would impose enormous costs on businesses at a time when the state's economy is sputtering, oil refiners, manufacturers and others said Thursday. Fees from the state's pending cap-and-trade program for carbon emissions amount to a \$1 billion-a-year tax increase on about 500 businesses in the state, the California Air Resources Board was told. While the board wasn't voting or taking any significant action regarding cap-and-trade at Thursday's meeting, it was the last chance for businesses to be heard before the program begins. The California Chamber of Commerce and others have written Gov. Jerry Brown urging him to halt the start of the program, which begins in earnest on Nov. 14 and is the central element of California's 2006 climate-change law, AB32.

Nation

'Extremists used video as excuse'

MIAMI (AP)—President Barack Obama said Thursday that extremists used an anti-Islam video as an excuse to assault U.S. interests overseas, including an attack on the U.S. Consulate in Libya that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans.

The president's comments came as Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton faced questions from members of the House and Senate about the Sept. 11 attack on the consulate in Benghazi in a series of closed-door classified briefings on Capitol Hill. Republicans have accused the Obama administration of misreading the assault as the outgrowth of widespread demonstrations in the Middle East over the video. They insisted it was a terrorist attack, a term White House spokesman Jay Carney used on Thursday. Obama did not use the phrase.

"What we do know is that the natural protests that arose because of the outrage over the video were used as an excuse by extremists to see if they can also directly harm U.S. interests," the president said at a candidate forum on the Spanish-language network Univision.

Asked if that meant al-Qaida, Obama said, "We don't know yet."

"We will focus narrowly and forcefully on groups like al-Qaida, the ones that carried out the 9/11 attacks. Those forces have not gone away," the president said.

Clinton also announced that,



President Barack Obama participates in a town hall hosted by Univision and Univision news anchor Maria Elena Salinas, left, at the University of Miami, Thursday, Sept. 20, 2012, in Coral Gables, Fla. AP

Clapper and Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton Carter.

Rep. Adam Smith of Washington state, the top Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, said it was "clearly a terrorist attack," but mortars weren't used until six, seven hours into the fight.

"So it seemed like an armed gang that seized an opportunity," Smith said.

Both Smith and Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersburger of Maryland, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said there was no evidence to suggest that the local Libyans at the consulate colluded with the attackers.

Obama suggests Romney is out of touch with America

MIAMI (AP)—President Barack Obama cast Mitt Romney on Thursday as an out-of-touch challenger for the White House and an advocate of education cuts that could cause teacher strikes to spread from Chicago to other cities. The Republican countered that the U.S. economy "is bumping along the bottom" under the current administration and he predicted victory in the fall.

The two men eyed each other across hotly contested Florida, a state with 29 electoral votes, more than any other battleground in the close race for the White House.

"When you express an attitude that half the country considers itself victims, that somehow they want to be dependent on government, my thinking is maybe you haven't gotten around a lot," the president said. That was in response to a question about Romney's recent observation that 47 percent of Americans pay no income tax and believe they are victims and entitled to an array of federal benefits.

Obama spoke at a town

hall-style forum aired by the Spanish-language television network Univision.

For his part, Romney was eager to move past that controversy, which has knocked him off stride. He disclosed plans for a three-day bus tour early next week through Ohio with running mate Paul Ryan and sought to return the campaign focus to the economic issues that have dominated the race all year.

At a fundraiser in Sarasota, Fla., Romney looked ahead to his televised head-to-head encounters with Obama this fall. "He's a very eloquent speaker, and so I'm sure in the debates, as last time ... he'll be very eloquent in describing his vision," the Republican said. "But he can't win by his words, because his record speaks so loudly in our ears. What he has done in the last four years is establish an economy that's bumping along the bottom."

Less than seven weeks before Election Day, polls make the race a close one, likely to be settled in eight or so swing

states where neither man has a solid edge. Obama has gained ground in polls in some of those states since the completion of the Democratic National Convention two weeks ago, while Romney has struggled with controversies of his own making that have left Republicans frustrated at his performance as a candidate.

Still, there were fresh signs of weakness in the nation's job market as the two candidates vied for support in Florida.

The Labor Department said the number of Americans seeking unemployment fell only slightly last week, to a seasonally adjusted level of 382,000, suggesting that businesses remain reluctant to add to their payrolls. The four-week average rose for the fifth straight week to the highest level in nearly three months.

After more than two days of struggle, Romney seemed eager to leave the 47 percent controversy behind as he appeared at the Univision forum Wednesday night. "My campaign is about the 100 percent in America," he said firmly.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Chick-fil-A makes another statement on controversy

ATLANTA (AP)—Chick-fil-A is once again in the public relations fryer. The controversy flared up this week when a Chicago politician said the company was no longer giving to groups that oppose same-sex marriage, angering Christian conservatives who supported Chick-fil-A this summer when its president reaffirmed his opposition to gay marriage. Civil rights groups hailed the turnaround, yet the company never confirmed it and instead released two public statements, neither of which made Chick-fil-A's position any clearer. The events suggest the Southern franchise may be trying to steer clear of hot-button social issues while it expands in other, less conservative regions of the country. In its statement Thursday, the Georgia-based company said its corporate giving had for many months been mischaracterized.

Asia

US surge troops out of Afghanistan

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)—Nearly two years after President Barack Obama ordered 33,000 more U.S. troops to Afghanistan to tamp down the escalating Taliban violence, the last of those surge troops have left the country, U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said Friday.

Panetta said the “surge did accomplish its objectives of reversing the Taliban momentum on the battlefield and dramatically increase the size and capability of the Afghan national security forces.”

Calling it a “very important milestone,” Panetta said he believes the U.S. is on track to accomplish its goals in Afghanistan.

Panetta said the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. John Allen, “is saying that the force he has put in place is sufficient to accomplish that mission.”

The withdrawal, which leaves 68,000 American forces in the war zone, comes as the security transition to Afghan forces is in trouble, threatened by a spike in so-called insider attacks in which Afghan Army and police troops, or insurgents dressed in their uniforms, have been attacking and killing U.S. and NATO forces.

And it’s called into question the core strategy that relies on NATO troops working shoulder to shoulder with Afghans, training them to take over the security of their own country so the U.S. and its allies can leave at the end of 2014 as planned.

The number of U.S. forces there peaked at about 101,000 last year, and they have been coming out slowly over the past several months.

The surge was aimed at beating back the Taliban to give the Afghan government and its security forces the time and space to take hold. The key goal was to ensure that the Taliban did not regain a foothold in the country that could allow it once again to become a safe haven for terror groups. And there was hope that Taliban members would be willing to come to the peace table.

Military commanders say they have made broad gains against the Taliban, wresting control of areas where the insurgents once had strong footholds. And Panetta has characterized the insider attacks as the last

US to reinstate NZ military ship visits

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)—After a 25-year ban, America will begin allowing Royal New Zealand Navy ships to visit U.S. military and Coast Guard facilities around the world, U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said Friday.

He said a policy change will allow the defense secretary to authorize individual visits. He said the U.S. also was removing restrictions to make it easier for the two militaries to engage in exercises and for leaders to hold security discussions as the U.S. refocuses attention on the Asia-Pacific region.

“While we acknowledge that our countries continue to have differences of opinion in some limited areas, today we have affirmed that we are embarking on a new course in our relationship that will not let those differences stand in the way of greater engagement on security issues,” Panetta said.

He spoke during a news conference Friday at the Government House with New Zealand Defense Minister Jonathan Coleman.

New Zealand banned nuclear weapons from the country 25 years ago so U.S. warships have not been able to enter its ports, and New Zealand ships were not allowed in U.S. military or Coast Guard ports.

The New Zealand minister, however, said his country’s ban on nuclear warships will continue. But he said the U.S. has accepted that and the two countries have moved on.

Panetta’s visit to New Zealand, the first by a Pentagon chief in 30 years, is part of a U.S. effort to rebuild military ties that were fractured over New Zealand’s ban on nuclear warships.

In recent years the relationship between the two countries has begun to thaw, and in June officials signed a new defense agreement that focuses on building maritime security in the Asia-Pacific region, establishing regular policy dialogue

gasp of a desperate insurgency.

But other top military leaders, including U.S. Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are worried about

and working together to counter threats.

The relationship between the two countries has improved significantly since New Zealand first sent troops to Afghanistan in 2003, and particularly since the center-right National Party, which is seen as U.S.-friendly, came to power in 2008.

Senior defense officials traveling with Panetta said there were no plans to sign a new defense treaty with New Zealand at this point. Instead, they said leaders wanted to begin moving toward a new defense relationship that would allow greater defense cooperation, including counter-piracy measures, military exercises and training on amphibious ships.

Advancing military ties with New Zealand is part of the U.S. military’s new focus on the Asia Pacific as the Pentagon shifts more troops and ships to the region. The U.S. hopes to work with New Zealand in the South Pacific, where the Wellington government has close ties with other island nations.

Panetta has been on a week-long tour of the Pacific, with earlier stops in China and Japan. But throughout the trip he has insisted that the new pivot to the Pacific is not aimed at containing or threatening China. The U.S., however, has been critical of China’s military buildup and wary as Beijing expands its economic reach and trade through the Pacific.

The officials, who outlined U.S. goals for the visit, spoke on condition of anonymity because the meetings with New Zealand officials had not yet occurred.

Panetta came to thank New Zealand for its participation in the Afghanistan war. New Zealand has about 180 troops there, working as a provincial reconstruction team. So far 10 New Zealand troops have been killed, with five of those deaths occurring in August, including the first female combat casualty in the nation’s history.

the impact of the attacks on the troops. Dempsey called them a “very serious threat” to the war campaign and has declared that “something has to change.”

through March this year. He said emerging markets would drive growth, including India and China, as Honda plans to strengthen cheaper models tailored for such regions.

US begins test flights of MV-22 Osprey in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—The U.S. Marines are conducting their first test flights of the MV-22 Osprey aircraft in Japan after months of

World

Islam vs tolerance debated in film’s wake

CAIRO (AP)—Behind the anger over a film mocking the Prophet Muhammad, public protest is giving way to measured debate over free speech in the new Muslim world.

But while many crave more openness, few if any will go so far as to say that includes the right to blaspheme.

Angry shouts of “No, no to America!” and “No to Israel!” have been balanced by voices condemning the weeklong violence that has targeted U.S. and other Western embassies and left more than 30 dead in seven countries, including Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans at the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya.

“Muslims should know that Islamic extremist groups bear some responsibility for the uproar taking place now, and for the collision of the world cultures,” said Sheik Hameed Marouf, a Sunni cleric in Baghdad.

“The moderate people and clerics in the Islamic world should do their best to isolate and stop such groups that do not represent the true moderate values of our religion.”

Religious extremists—

Libya’s Benghazi keeps its air of rebelliousness

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—In front of Benghazi’s stock market, pedestrians pick their way around lakes of sewage in the street, carefully stepping on bricks set in the fetid water. The grandest hotel in Libya’s second largest city is a gloomy, state-owned bulk, with broken windows and dim corridors.

Bengazans, who see their city as a co-capital and historic home of Libya’s king, are bitter over decades of neglect and humiliation under Moammar Gadhafi. And they rumble with discontent that the transitional leadership in Tripoli still doesn’t treat them as equals.

Last week’s deadly attack on the U.S. Consulate was just



In this Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2012 file photo, a Libyan man holds a placard in English during a demonstration against the attack on the U.S. consulate that killed four Americans, including the ambassador, in Benghazi, Libya. AP

whether Muslim, Jewish or Christian—“will lead only to more killings and more blasphemous acts,” he said.

Anger is still palpable over the anti-Islam video made in California, as well as French political cartoons that denigrate Muhammad, but most of the Arab world has not seen protests for much of this week.

The streets around the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, where clashes raged for days, were relatively quiet Thursday. Egyptian security forces patrolling the area casually

leaned their rifles against the same compound walls that were scaled by angry protesters just last week.

The easing of the violence reflects the balance that Egypt and other Islamic nations are trying to find as they work to nourish democracy in societies where blasphemy is a crime.

“There is no doubt that most Muslims take offense at anyone mocking the prophet,” said Mustafa Alani, an analyst at the Geneva-based Gulf Research Center. “The great divide is over the response.

one sign of how the city of 1 million is a tough customer.

Perched on the Mediterranean Sea on the eastern side of Libya’s Gulf of Sidra, Benghazi was the first to revolt against Gadhafi last year, its young protesters hurling themselves against his troops until the regime’s hold was broken. It then became the rebel capital and the heartland for the militias on the eastern front of the months-long civil war.

The sense of rebelliousness continues. Since Gadhafi’s fall, several top leaders from Tripoli still have gotten rough welcomes here.

Then-interim president Mustafa Abdul-Jalil was met earlier

this year by angry protesters, some armed, who stormed his office and forced him to flee. Protesters with knives went after his prime minister.

Al-Shahat al-Awami, the head of the elected city council, resigned in July, just one month after he assumed his post, after receiving threats that he would be shot dead and his house burned to ashes because of failures to clean up garbage and delays in salaries.

“This is the paradox. Today they vote for you and tomorrow they spit in your face,” said Faraj Nejim, a native son and political commentator who is now a representative for the city in the national assembly.

Syrian activists: Airstrikes kill at least 30

BEIRUT (AP)—Regime airstrikes hit a gas station in northern Syria Thursday, setting off a fiery explosion that killed at least 30 people and wounded dozens, opposition activists said. Amateur video showed thick black smoke engulfing the scene.

Earlier Thursday, a Syrian military helicopter crashed near the capital of Damascus, and Syria’s Information Ministry said the helicopter went down after its rotor accidentally clipped the tail of a Syrian passenger plane with 200 people on board. The larger aircraft landed safely at Damascus International Airport and no one was hurt, the ministry said.

The airstrikes and the close call in the sky underscored the growing turmoil and violence

in Syria. The country is embroiled in a civil war between forces fighting for President Bashar Assad and those trying to topple him. More than 23,000 people have been killed in the 18-month conflict, according to activists.

In recent weeks, Assad’s regime has stepped up airstrikes in northern Syria in an attempt to dislodge rebels from areas they control there. Activists said Thursday’s air attack hit near the town of Ain Issa, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) from Turkey. A day earlier, rebel fighters had seized control of a border crossing north of the town.

Rami Abdul-Rahman of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said

that witnesses counted at least 30 bodies and that dozens of people were wounded. Another group, the Local Coordination Committees, which gathers information from a network of activists across Syria, put the death toll at 55.

Amateur video showed thick black smoke rising near the gas station, which was partially intact. Several vehicles, including a bulldozer and pickup trucks, were on fire. The video, whose authenticity could not be confirmed independently, also showed several damaged cars. A man could be heard shouting “your son is dead.”

Both groups quoted witnesses as saying the blast was caused by airstrikes on the gas station.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Honda aims to double global auto sales in 5 years

TOKYO (AP)—Honda is aiming to double global auto sales to more than 6 million vehicles over the next five years as it gears up for growth after getting hit by disasters last year. Honda Motor Co. President Takanobu Ito gave his worldwide target Friday for the fiscal year ending March 2017, up from 3.1 million vehicles for the fiscal year

Youngstyle

Civil war keeps many Syrian children from school

By PAUL SCHEMML and DALE GAVLAK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEL RIFAAT, Syria (AP)—Nine-year-old Rawan Mustafa knew she would miss school this year.

Her primary school is in ruins, blown apart two months ago by an airstrike in rebel-controlled northern Syria.

"I come here to find books to take them home and read—my sister helps me," Rawan said Sunday, picking her way through the rubble of shattered walls, half-burned work books and smashed glass.

Sunday was the official first day of school in Syria, a country of 23 million people, but the country's agonizing civil war is keeping thousands of students like Rawan out of classrooms nationwide.

Many schools have been destroyed or occupied by refugees. Some parents are simply too afraid to send their children to school due over fears of violence. Still others are living in refugee camps outside the country with only limited access to an education.

The U.N. children's agency says it is difficult to know precisely how many Syrian children have been out of school for an extended period due to the conflict, which started 18 months ago and has killed at least 23,000 people.

Dina Craissati, UNICEF's regional education adviser, said at least 200,000 Syrian children who have been displaced from their homes within the country are having difficulty accessing education. Outside Syria's borders, the U.N. has registered more than 250,000 refugees—including children—but tens of thousands more have fled to Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon and Iraq without registering.

Some 2,000 schools have been damaged in the conflict and 759 are being used as sanctuaries for those displaced, Syrian Education Minister Hazwan al-Wazz said. Still, the government says 22,000 schools are operating and handling any overflow by having students attend classes in shifts.

The government said more than 5 million students attended school on Sunday.

Mohammed Rakani, a 10-year-old from the Damascus suburb of Sbeineh, was not among them. He is staying with his family at the Somayya al-Makhzomiya School in Damascus, which is sheltering more 300 people, or 65 families.

"I want to return to my school, which I love so much. I am now in the fourth grade," Mohammed said during a government-escorted trip to the school on Sunday.

In the north, where the opposition wields much more control, rebel officials say they are too focused on getting enough food and medical supplies into the country to concentrate on schools. There are also fears that any makeshift schools set up may attract airstrikes.

"Our main focus is food, shelter and medical care right now," said Seif al-Haq, a rebel with the Tawhid Brigade that is responsible for civilian affairs in the northern city of Aleppo and the surrounding countryside.

"No schools are running in the liberated areas



Syrian boy Musataf Alhafiz, 11, who fled his home with his family due to fighting between the Syrian army and the rebels, carries his brother Saif, 9 months, while he and others take refuge at the Bab Al-Salameh border crossing, in hopes of entering one of the refugee camps in Turkey, near the Syrian town of Azaz, Thursday, Aug. 23, 2012. Thousands of Syrians who have been displaced by the country's civil war are struggling to find safe shelter while shelling and airstrikes by government forces continue. AP

of Aleppo, they were all destroyed, but we are trying to run makeshift classes underground, like English or computers. Of course we're still afraid they'll get hit," he said.

Abu Ahmed, a high school physics teacher in Tel Rifaat, said some had contemplated holding private classes but feared they would be hit by the airstrikes that hit the area on a daily basis.

"They target anywhere where people gather," he said, asking his real name not be used because as a civil servant, he is still receiving his government salary.

Another problem is that many teachers have joined the hundreds of thousands of Syrians who have fled the province.

Standing amid the ruins of the school, Mohammed Ibrahim, 13, said his Arabic teacher Abdel-Razaq was his favorite because he never got angry. But Abdel-Razaq was gone now, along with half of Mohammed's friends.

"It makes me sad that they are not here," said Ibrahim, whose favorite subject is math because he said it makes his brain work. "It's boring without them."

Even in villages considered "safe," that aren't subject to daily bombings, schools aren't opening, often because they are filled with refugees.

In the town of Souran, the newly built school

is still in perfect condition, but each classroom is now filled with a different extended family who sleep side by side on the floor on thin mattresses.

Refugees from the fighting in Aleppo, they came here months ago and moved all the desks out into the sun-splashed courtyard so that they could settle in the classrooms.

The displaced acknowledged, though, that local residents had been urging them to leave and head for the refugee camps on the border so that the school could return to its original use.

It's not clear why so many schools have been hit in the fighting. In some cases rebels have apparently used the facilities, as may have been the case in Tel Rifaat where one classroom had some tattered military fatigues on the floor.

Residents in Kal Jibrein, however, say that wasn't the case with their school, which on Saturday afternoon was nearly hit by a missile that tore the facade off the house across from it.

A few weeks ago, rockets put a hole in the school roof and smashed most of its windows, according to residents.

"Today we should all be in school, but we can't go because of the planes," said Dargham Yassin, a bespectacled little boy who like many Syrian children looks much younger than his 12 years. Without school, he's not sure how he will

fill his days.

"I'll do nothing," he said. "I'll go feed the sheep."

Syrians who have escaped their country also lack access to education.

At the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan—which is fast becoming known as "the children's camp"—two-thirds of the 30,000 Syrian refugees are under 18, while 5,000 are 4 and younger. On a recent day, the children filled plastic bottles with drinking water at pumps or played on swings and slides; others scampered aimlessly about.

Save the Children and UNICEF believe part of the healing process for the camp's children will mean going back to school.

But Jordanian officials have said that may not happen until October at the earliest, after promised funding is made available by the government of Bahrain. UNICEF wants a school for the camp's children to open much sooner.

"We really need to ensure that children regain some sense of normalcy. They have been through horrific times and have seen extreme violence," said Dominique Hyde, UNICEF's representative to Jordan. "They need as soon as possible not only to come back to education but also to some sort of routine and stability. School provides one of the best ways."

By LINDSEY TANNER
AP MEDICAL WRITER

CDC: US kids eat too much salt, as much as adults

and Prevention were published online Monday in the journal Pediatrics.

Previous research has shown similar results in adults but studies on salt, weight and blood pressure are scarce in children.

The CDC researchers looked at data on 6,200 kids aged 8 to 18 involved in 2003-08 national

health surveys. The children were asked twice over several days to detail all foods they'd

ONLINE
Pediatrics: <http://www.pediatrics.org>
CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov>
Blood pressure charts: <http://tinyurl.com/8k6egur>

eaten the previous day; the researchers calculated salt intake from their answers.

Overall, 15 percent had either

high blood pressure or slightly elevated blood pressure called prehypertension.

Those who ate the most salt faced double the risk of having elevated blood pressure, compared with those who ate few salty foods. But among overweight or obese kids, the risk was more than triple.

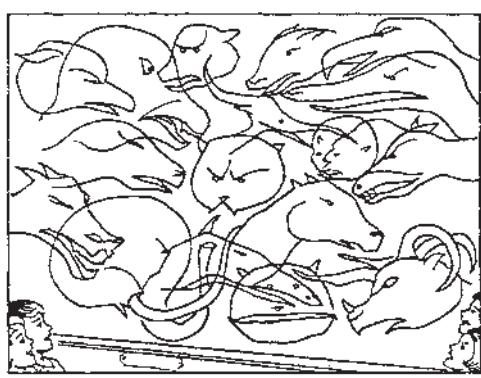
The recommended daily salt or sodium intake for kids and adults is no more than 1 teaspoon daily, or about 2,300 milligrams. On average, study kids ate 3,300 milligrams daily.

CDC researcher Quanhe (SHWAH'-nuh) Yang says it's unclear why heavier kids would be more sensitive to salt but it could be due to obesity-related hormone changes. The results raise concerns because studies

have shown that elevated blood pressure in childhood, even just prehypertension, can lead to full-fledged high blood pressure in adulthood and potentially premature heart disease.

Prehypertension and high blood pressure in children younger than 17 depend on age, height and gender.

In those 18 and up, readings between 120 over 80 and 140 over 90 are prehypertension; 140 over 90 and higher is high blood pressure.



FALLY HO! Our artist claims there are some 19 wild and woolly critters pictured here. How many do you count?

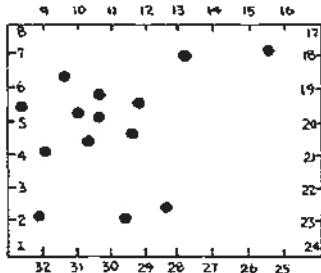
WORD PATROL! Letters of a bad word are scrambled there in plain sight, ROB DA WAD. Your assignment: to see how quickly you can unscramble them. Time: 30 seconds.

OPEN BOOK! Ask someone to open a book to any page and to pick a word within the top nine lines that is not farther in than the ninth word of that line. Now, have the person multiply the page number by 10, add 25, and add the number of the line; then, multiply by 10 again, and add the position number of the word in the line.

Alakazam, subtract 250, and the last digit of answer will be the word's position in line; next-to-last digit will be the line number, and remaining digit (or digits) the page.

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



DOTS BEFORE EYES SPAWN FITS

HERE'S a dotty problem if you ever saw one. A ruler and sharp pencil are required to solve it.

This is the test: To draw five straight lines across the diagram (border to border) so that each of the 14 dots is in its own enclosure.

Enclosures may vary in size and shape — some may be large, some small. Indeed, at least two dots are subject to very tight fits.

How long will it take you to draw the lines?

For use as a party pastime, make copies of this diagram and supply each person with ruler and pencil.

See who (if anyone) can answer within five minutes.

Solution: Draw lines 32-11, 2-15, 6-23, 5-18, 10-28. Other answers may be possible.



Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was Canadian American educator Laurence J. Peter who made the following sage observation: "You can always tell a real friend: When you've made a fool of yourself, he doesn't feel you've done a permanent job."

■ In Murfreesboro, Tenn., it is illegal to keep indoor furniture outdoors.

■ Mike Edwards, one of the founding members of the British band Electric Light Orchestra, met with an untimely death decades after he left the group. In 2010, as Edwards was driving in the rural southwest of England, a farmer lost control of a 1,300-pound bale of hay. This wheel-shaped bale rolled down a hill and over a hedge, and just happened to smash into the van that Edwards was driving.

■ The humble honeybee is the official insect of 17 states.

■ Those who study such things say that there is a 1 million to 1 chance that, within the next century, an asteroid will crash into the Earth and destroy most life on the planet.

■ In 2008 a company called Defense Devices, based in Jackson, Tenn., introduced a new item: a stun gun disguised as a tube of lipstick. The same company offers a ring that will shoot pepper spray.

■ You might be surprised to learn that the giant bullfrogs of South Africa have sometimes been known to attack lions.

■ Rhode Island may be the smallest state, but it has the longest name: It's officially known as the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation.

■ The tuatara is a lizard that can be found in New Zealand. Its claim to fame? It has a third eye, on the top of its head.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "The length of a film should be directly related to the endurance of the human bladder." —Alfred Hitchcock

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MAGIC MAZE • — SHIPS

M B Y V S C E Q N K H E B Y L
W T R R O A L T J G E B Y L W
U R P M E R C H A N T N A K I
G G D B Z G E G X R V T S Q O
M K N I G O N N E C I A Y R W
U S Q I P I N E I P L P L E J
H F E C L E R U S A E R T P A
Y X V I U A C O V S T S Q P P
N M A K J H H A F E A N C I B
E S I U R C N W P Z Y P O L X
V U T R Q P R A T S O H G C O

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Cargo	Hospital	Pirate	Tall
Clipper	Merchant	Sailing	Treasure
Container	Naval	Space	Whaling
Ghost	Passenger	Star	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

* Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

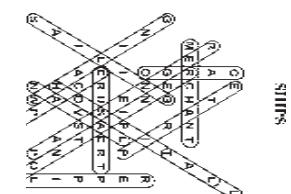
	+		×		20
×		×		×	
	+		÷		2
+		+		-	
	-		×		18
19	19	19			
1	2	3	4	6	7
3	4	6	7	8	9

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GO FIGURE ANSWER

19	19	19	19
3	-	1	×
+		-	-
8	+	6	÷
2	+	3	×
2	+	3	×
4	20		

MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



Pets not immune to gum disease

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My dog, "Parker," had two teeth removed during his last visit to the veterinarian, who said he had periodontal disease. I always thought that feeding him teeth-cleaning dog treats was enough to keep his teeth healthy, but the veterinarian said no. Can you let your readers know that their pet's teeth need regular brushing and periodic checkups at the vet's office? —Sharon in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.



onto the brush, cradle your pet's head, and lift his or her lip upward (or downward, if brushing the lower teeth). Brush by starting at the gumline and brushing gently down over the teeth (or upward, if brushing the lower teeth). Be patient and give your pet lots of encouragement.

Many pets resist having their teeth brushed, so again, be patient and gentle, and give lots of praise and a treat at the end of each session.

■ ■ ■

Send your questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com. If your question or comment is printed in the weekly column, you'll receive a free copy of "Fighting Fleas," the newest booklet from Paws Corner!

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Take hike to enjoy change of seasons

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

Park and Walk

A friend once gave me this advice: "When going on an errand, take a child!" So this fall, include your child often when you do Saturday errands to the hardware store, dry cleaners, farmer's market and wherever else your to-do list takes you. These mini "family errand" field trips provide natural opportunities for learning, communicating and sharing about how things work in a community.



If these destinations are near your home, walk there together. If they are far from home, park in a spot farther away from where you are headed. You'll get your extra walking in, avoid congestion and enjoy the benefit of driving out of the lot easily when you leave.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasdaday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

Video shows Lohan-pedestrian encounter at NY club

NEW YORK (AP)—Grainy surveillance footage released Thursday shows Lindsay Lohan's car driving toward a man

who says she hit him outside a nightclub and kept going, but the blur used to conceal witnesses' faces partially obscures the scene.

The black-and-white video, released by police, shows Lohan's Porsche turning from a Manhattan street onto an alley around 12:20 a.m. Wednesday as Jose Rodriguez passes in front of the car and apparently is struck. Rodriguez, a 34-year-old restaurant worker from Jersey City, N.J., stays on his feet and walks after the car as it drives away.

Rodriguez called 911 and was hospitalized with a knee injury. He said he was coming from his job at a restaurant inside the nearby Maritime Hotel when he was struck and was in a lot of pain. He criticized Lohan and her entourage.

"They acted like I was nothing," he told the Daily News. "That no one could touch her because she was so rich and powerful."

The 26-year-old actress later was arrested as she left the nightclub at the Dream Hotel in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood, police said. No alcohol was involved, they said.

Lohan was arrested on charges of leaving the scene of an accident and causing injury. She was given a ticket and was scheduled to appear in court on Oct. 23. Her publicist Steve Honig said he was confident the claims being made against the troubled "Mean Girls" star would be proved untrue.

This summer in California, Lohan was involved in a car accident that sent her and an assistant to a hospital, but no one was seriously injured. The accident remains under investigation.

In May, she was cleared of allegations that she struck a Hollywood nightclub manager with her car.



Lohan

Obamas to make 1st joint appearance on 'The View'

NEW YORK (AP)—President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, will make their first joint appearance on the daytime show "The View" next week.

The show says the Democratic president and first lady will tape an episode Monday to air Tuesday. Obama's appearance in July 2010 was the show's most-watched episode ever.

GOP challenger Mitt Romney might not be far behind. Romney said in private remarks

to donors made public this week that going on "The View" is high risk because of the sharp-tongued female hosts, only one of whom is a conservative.

That conservative, Elisabeth Hasselbeck, said Wednesday that she had reached out to Romney, and the campaign said he'd love to come on the show in October.

CBS' "60 Minutes" also announced both candidates will appear Sunday in separate interviews.



AP
President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama walk to the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Friday, Sept. 14, 2012, for a ceremony to welcome the 2012 U.S. Olympic and Paralympic teams.

Scarlett Johansson to play 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof'

NEW YORK (AP)—Scarlett Johansson will tap into her feline side later this year when she plays Maggie the Cat on Broadway.



Johansson

production will be directed by Tony and Emmy Award-winner Rob Ashford.

On the news of the announcement, Johansson said: "I am so thrilled to return to Broadway and feel incredibly fortunate to be doing so with Rob Ashford and such gifted actors."

The new "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" will begin previews at the Richard Rodgers Theater on Dec. 18 and open on Jan. 17. It marks the play's fifth revival on Broadway and one four years after Anika Noni Rose played Maggie.

Johansson's films include "Lost in Translation," "Match Point" and "We Bought a Zoo."

Benjamin Walker, who starred in "Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson," will play her husband Brick. Ciaran Hinds plays Big Daddy, and Debra Monk will be Big Mama. The

Justin Timberlake: I'm not able to rush out albums

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He brought "SexyBack," but don't quite wait for Justin Timberlake to bring his music back—just yet.

The singing superstar said his music making process is fueled by life's experiences and making an album "is a really big deal."

"For me, personally, when I do sit down and decide to do it, it's just a special thing," he said in an interview Wednesday night.

Timberlake is engaged to actress Jessica Biel. He's appeared in a ton of movies in recent years, from "The Social

Network" to "Friends With Benefits." This week he's in "Trouble With the Curve," alongside Clint Eastwood and Amy Adams.

His last album was 2006's "FutureSex/LoveSounds," a Grammy-winning record that launched three No. 1 hits and sold more than 4 million units in the United States. He's appeared on songs by other musicians but has not released his own music since.

The 31-year-old said he's unlike today's artists, who constantly drop albums and singles.

"I don't know that I can pump them out every year," he said.

Fiona Apple arrested for hashish in West Texas

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—Singer-songwriter Fiona Apple was arrested for hashish possession at a West Texas Border Patrol checkpoint after a drug-sniffing dog detected marijuana in her tour bus.

Hudspeth County sheriff's office spokesman Rusty Fleming told the Associated Press on Thursday that Apple spent Wednesday night in the county jail in Sierra Blanca. Apple was released Thursday after posting bail.

Country singer Willie Nelson, rapper Snoop Dogg and actor Armand Hammer also have been arrested in Sierra Blanca on marijuana charges.

Fleming said that after the dog alerted the Border Patrol agent, the artist's bus was



AP
This handout photo provided by the Hudspeth County Sheriff's Office shows Fiona Apple.

searched. Police found the drugs in a backpack—about four grams of marijuana and a plastic bag with about four grams of a clay-like substance that tested positive for hashish were stored in a glass container, the sheriff's office said in a press release.

Teens play the same notes, but aren't making music together

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm 15 and I really like this boy, but I can't find the courage to ask him out. I'm pretty sure he likes me, too, because whenever we're together he holds my hand or puts his arms around me.

He has a great smile and personality. We have many things in common, such as we both play an instrument, we make each other laugh and we're both close with our families. What I don't understand is why he hasn't made a move yet to ask me out.

NEEDS LOVE HELP



Dear Abby

DEAR NEEDS LOVE HELP: I can think of a few reasons, and none of them have anything to do with how much he likes you. He may not be able to afford to ask you out, he may feel shy, he may not feel ready to date, or his parents may prefer that he concentrate on something other than romance. Some teens get around this by socializing in groups, so instead of asking him "out," consider asking if he'd like to join you and a group of your friends sometime.

DEAR ABBY: I'm an 18-year-old woman who lives at home with my parents. I have been seeing an amazing person for a while now. There is just one problem. My mother has decided to put "rules" on our relationship.

By rules, I mean: a curfew, how often I see him, where I am to be with him and various other things. Also, she randomly blurts out that I am "never to move in with him until I am married." I don't plan on moving in with him until we both have our college degrees.

I am technically an adult, which means to me that I can make my own decisions and suffer the consequences if there are any. I know I live in my parents' home. I follow their rules and respect their wishes—but this is a bit extreme, don't you think?

Abby, please advise me on how to explain to my mom that I'm an adult and not a newborn baby as she regards me?

NOT A CHILD ANYMORE IN OHIO

DEAR NOT A CHILD: Although you may be an adult in the eyes of the law in Ohio, you are not INDEPENDENT. As long as you are dependent upon your parents for shelter, food or anything else there is a price you will have to pay. In this case, the price you are paying is your mother's loving but hawklike supervision. And if you think you or I can talk her out of it, you're dreaming.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I were invited to my brother's wedding, and we accepted. Later, my brother asked me to be a groomsman.

My wife is upset because I didn't ask her if she minded that I'll be in the wedding and I will walk down the aisle with one of the bridesmaids. She feels that my walking with another woman is a "date" and disrespectful to her. Is it proper wedding etiquette to accept an invitation to be in a wedding if you are married?

GROOMSMAN IN THE SOUTH

DEAR GROOMSMAN: It is very common for the brother of the groom to be in his wedding party—and marital status has nothing to do with it. Escorting an assigned bridesmaid to and from the altar is NOT a "date," nor is it disrespectful to your wife, who may really be upset because she wasn't also asked to be part of the wedding party.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

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REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Nationals beat Dodgers to clinch postseason slot

 WASHINGTON (AP)—

The Washington Nationals brought postseason baseball back to the nation's capital for the first time since 1933, earning a playoff spot Thursday night with a 4-1 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"Nats Clinch" flashed on the scoreboard as Washington ensured at least an NL wild-card spot behind Ross Detwiler's six strong innings and Ryan Zimmerman's RBI double.

A crowd of 30,359 stood and cheered in the ninth inning, then got even louder when Drew Storen struck out Hanley Ramirez to end it. Manager Davey Johnson saluted the fans as he left the field and the team wore caps acknowledging the playoff berth.

Washington's magic number to win the NL East was reduced to eight. The Nationals lead idle Atlanta by 5 1/2 games.

Washington was last in the postseason 79 years ago, when player-manager Joe Cronin and the Senators lost to the New York Giants in five games in the World Series.

The loss dropped the Dodgers three games behind St. Louis for the NL's second wild-card spot. Milwaukee moved ahead of Los Angeles with its win over Pittsburgh.

Detwiler (10-6) allowed just Mark Ellis' fourth-inning home run and two singles. Storen earned his third save.

Chris Capuano (11-11) got the loss.

Reds 5, Cubs 3

In Chicago, the Reds became the first team in the majors to clinch a playoff spot this season, beating the Cubs while manager Dusty Baker remained in a hospital after being diagnosed with an irregular heartbeat.

Ace Johnny Cueto (18-9) and the NL Central leaders ensured themselves of at least a wild-card spot. Cincinnati cut its magic number to two for winning the division for the second time in three years.

The Reds said Baker would remain in a Chicago hospital for an additional day so doctors could monitor his progress. He is hoping to return to Cincinnati on Friday. Bench coach Chris Speier ran the team for a second straight game.

Alfredo Simon got four outs for his first save.

The Reds broke a scoreless tie by getting five straight singles off Manuel Corpas (0-2) in the seventh during a five-run rally capped by Henry Rodriguez's two-run double.

Phillies 16, Mets 1

In New York, Jimmy Rollins and Chase Utley sparked an eight-run first inning, Ryan Howard added a late grand slam and the Phillies routed the inept Mets before a few hundred fans at quiet Citi Field.

Rookie right-hander Tyler Cloyd (2-1) pitched eight in-



Washington Nationals players high-five as fans celebrate their 4-1 win against the Los Angeles Dodgers to clinch a playoff spot after their baseball game at Nationals Park in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 20, 2012. AP

nings of three-hit ball and the Phillies stayed four games behind St. Louis for the second NL wild card, with two other teams in their path.

Juan Pierre matched a career high with five hits, Utley added four and Philadelphia set season highs for runs and hits (21)—including 19 singles. The Phillies finished a three-game sweep and won for the 11th time in 14 games.

New York rookie starter Jeremy Hefner (2-7) did not record an out in the makeup game for Tuesday night's rainout. With the Mets setting marks for futility at home, it appeared fewer than 1,000 fans were in the stands for the first pitch.

Cardinals 5, Astros 4

In St. Louis, pinch-hitter Carlos Beltran snapped a sixth-inning tie with a two-run double and Allen Craig hit a three-run homer, powering the Cardinals to a season sweep at home against the Astros.

Beltran's double put St. Louis up 5-3, rewarding Jaime Garcia (5-7) for keeping it close and leaving the Cardinals 2 1/2 games up for the second NL wild card with 12 games remaining.

They took care of business against the lowly Astros, who absorbed their 102nd loss while leading for a single inning in the three-game series.

The Cardinals were 6-0 at home against Houston, their first season series sweep in St. Louis since 1996.

Bud Norris (5-13) allowed five runs in 5 1/3 innings for Houston after getting sent back to the team hotel Wednesday night suffering from flu-like symptoms.

Jason Motte finished for his 38th save in 45 chances.

Brewers 9, Pirates 7

In Pittsburgh, Rickie Weeks hit a tying two-run triple and scored the go-ahead run on Aramis Ramirez's single, helping surging Milwaukee rally for the victory.

The Brewers have won five straight, eight of nine and 15 of 19 to climb into the playoff race. They remained 2 1/2 games back of St. Louis for the second NL wild-card slot.

Milwaukee trailed 7-4 before it rallied for four runs in the eighth inning.

Ramirez had three hits and three RBIs for the Brewers, who built an early 4-0 lead.

Pittsburgh star Andrew McCutchen hit a three-run drive for his 30th homer. Chris Resop (1-4) got the loss.

The Pirates (74-75) have dropped three straight and 11 of 13 to slip under .500 for the first time since late May. They are in danger of a 20th straight losing season, which would extend their major North American professional sports record.

Manny Parra (2-3) picked up the win and John Axford worked the ninth for his 31st save in 39 chances.

Giants 9, Rockies 2

In San Francisco, Pablo Sandoval homered from both sides of the plate and the NL West-leading Giants reduced their magic number to clinch the division to four.

Buster Posey also connected to back another strong start by Barry Zito (13-8) as San Francisco completed a four-game series sweep.

Zito won his fifth straight decision and has done everything he can to earn himself a spot in the postseason rotation after being

left off all three rounds for the 2010 World Series champions.

The second-place Dodgers were set for a night game at Washington, trailing by 9 1/2 games. San Francisco (87-63) moved a season-best 24 games above .500.

Colorado has lost six in a row. Jorge De La Rosa (0-1) was tagged for five earned runs, six in all, and seven hits in 3 2-3 innings.

Padres 6, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, Jesus Guzman homered to help San Diego get the victory.

Clayton Richard (14-12) allowed four runs and eight hits in six innings to raise his career record against Arizona to 6-0—including three wins in three starts at Chase Field over the past 10 weeks.

Anthony Bass, the last of five Padres pitchers in the ninth, struck out Aaron Hill on a checked swing for his first career save.

Adam Eaton hit his first career home run and Hill went deep for the Diamondbacks, who had won three in a row. Justin Upton had three hits and scored twice.

Diamondbacks starter Tyler Skaggs (1-3) pitched in and out of trouble while allowing four runs and seven hits over five innings.

Athletics 12, Tigers 4

In Detroit, Seth Smith homered, doubled and drove in four runs, and the Oakland Athletics avoided a three-game sweep by beating the Detroit Tigers 12-4 Thursday in a matchup of AL playoff contenders.

Oakland is tied with Baltimore for the wild-card lead. The

Tigers are two games behind Central-leading Chicago.

Josh Donaldson hit a go-ahead single in a four-run sixth inning that made it 6-3, then had an RBI double to cap a six-run ninth that included Smith's three-run double.

Pat Neshek (2-1) retired the only batter he faced and got the win.

Anibal Sanchez (3-6), who held Cleveland hitless for 6 2-3 innings in his last start, gave up six runs on six hits and two walks in 5 2-3 innings.

Rangers 3, Angels 1

In Anaheim, California, Adrian Beltre hit a tiebreaking two-run homer off Angels closer Ernesto Frieri in the ninth inning, and the Rangers dealt yet another blow to Los Angeles' fading playoff hopes.

Yu Darvish (16-9) held the Angels to four hits and struck out nine in a scintillating eight-inning duel with Zack Greinke, who gave up five hits and struck out eight.

Beltre then rewarded Darvish with his 34th homer to left field off Frieri (3-2), who wasted a phenomenal start by Greinke for the second time in six days.

Joe Nathan earned his 34th save.

Texas (89-60) improved the AL's best record and stayed four games ahead of Oakland (85-64) in the AL West by taking two of three from the Angels.

Los Angeles (81-69) dropped 4 1/2 games behind the Athletics and Baltimore in the AL wild-card standings.

Royals 4, White Sox 3

In Kansas City, Missouri, Alex Rios was thrown out at the plate, Alexei Ramirez was picked off third base and the AL Central-

leading Chicago White Sox again failed to come up with a clutch hit in a 4-3 loss to the Kansas City Royals on Thursday night.

Eric Hosmer singled home the winning run with two outs in the ninth inning. The White Sox stayed two games ahead of Detroit, which lost in the afternoon to Oakland, with 13 games remaining.

The Royals beat the Chicago for the ninth time in their last 11 meetings.

Jesse Crain (2-3) took the loss. Greg Holland (7-4) worked a scoreless ninth for the victory.

Yankees 10, Blue Jays 7

In New York, streaking Ichiro Suzuki hit a go-ahead, two-run double in a seven-run fourth inning capped by Nick Swisher's grand slam, and the New York Yankees beat the Toronto to open a one-game AL East lead over idle Baltimore.

After struggling for much of the summer, the Yankees completed a three-game sweep of the Blue Jays and have won five in a row, their longest winning string since June 23-27.

Backed by an 8-2 lead, Phil Hughes (16-12) lasted just five innings. David Robertson got three outs for his second save this season and first since May 8.

Suzuki homered in the third, then doubled in the fourth. His ninth hit in 10 at-bats chased Aaron Laffey (3-6).

Rays 7, Red Sox 4

In St. Petersburg, Florida, B.J. Upton hit a game-ending, three-run homer off Vicente Padilla, capping Tampa Bay's six-run ninth inning and lifting the Rays over Boston.

Tampa Bay salvaged a split of the four-game series and remained 5 1/2 games behind Oakland and Baltimore for the second AL wild-card slot. The Rays have 12 games left on their schedule.

Andrew Bailey (1-1) gave up four hits and a walk before Padilla came in to face Upton, who drove a 2-1 pitch over the wall in center for his 24th homer.

Burke Badenhop (2-2) recorded one out to get the win.

Indians 4, Twins 3

In Cleveland, Casey Kotchman hit an RBI single with the bases loaded in the 10th inning and the Cleveland Indians topped Minnesota.

Pinch hitter Shin-Soo Choo doubled off the wall in left-center to start the inning against reliever Anthony Swarzak (3-5). Choo took third on Jason Kipnis' groundout before Carlos Santana and Michael Brantley were intentionally walked to load the bases.

Kotchman fouled off the first pitch before bouncing a ground ball up the middle against the drawn-in infield for his third hit of the game.

Esmil Rogers (3-1) pitched a perfect inning for the win. Both teams used five pitchers.

Manning, Brown help Giants rout Panthers, 36-7



CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Eli Manning didn't need a fourth-quarter comeback Thursday night.

The two-time Super Bowl champion quarterback, running back Andre Brown and the rest of the New York Giants finished off the Carolina Panthers way before that.

Brown ran for a career-high 113 yards and two touchdowns in his first NFL start to help the Giants rout the Panthers 36-7.

Four days after rallying from 14 points down to beat Tampa Bay, the Giants dominated the first half, scoring on their first four possessions to build a 20-0 lead.

The defending champion Giants (2-1) were without three starters but it hardly mattered.

Brown—waived by five different teams—including the Panthers—since coming into the league as a fourth-round draft pick in 2009—got his chance Thursday night when Ahmad Bradshaw sat out with a neck injury.

Brown said he thought about getting cut by the Panthers before the game—and it inspired him.

"I was walking into the stadium and I have to go by the spot where I parked my car," Brown said. "I felt a little fire, no doubt. I'm so happy to come out here. It really humbled me. It really shows that everything is not guaranteed. You know, I'm just going to ride this wave. Hopefully, it's a long wave."

Ramses Barden is hoping to ride that same wave.

Barden caught nine passes for a career-high 138 yards in his first NFL start. He played in place of Hakeem Nicks.

Of course it helps that the guy throwing you the ball is named Manning. He completed 27 of 35 passes for 288 yards with one



New York Giants running back Andre Brown (35) rushes as Carolina Panthers cornerback Josh Norman (24) defends during the first quarter of an NFL football game in Charlotte, N.C., Thursday, Sept. 20, 2012. AP

touchdown and no interceptions.

On the other side, second-year quarterback Cam Newton struggled all night and was

pressured into three interceptions. The Panthers (1-2) had five turnovers, including two by returner Joe Adams.

Newton had no luck running the read option against the Giants. He was held to 6 yards rushing a week after running for a career-

high 71 yards against the Saints.

"We got some licks on him, when he kept the ball, and that's something that was lacking last week," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said. "You have to be disciplined. You have to have people in the right spots, or he'll take full advantage of it."

Panthers coach Ron Rivera likened the loss to a lesson you learn from your big brother.

"They came in and slapped us around and dragged us to the ground a little bit," Rivera said. "Hopefully, we learn from it a little bit. Hopefully, we learn from it and, hopefully, we don't like it and we come back focused."

Mixing run and pass, the Giants dominated the opening half, outgaining the Panthers 303-125.

Manning completed 19 of 25 passes for 208 yards in the first half, including a 14-yard touchdown pass to Martellus Bennett to cap the Giants' game-opening drive and set the tone. It capped an eight-play, 80-yard drive and marked the third straight game the Panthers have given up a touchdown on an opponent's first drive.

For Rivera and the Panthers the first half was a nightmare.

"When you put yourself in a hole like that it's tough trying to claw and scratch yourself back up," Rivera said. "And that's really what happened. That's the type of game they want you to be in. That's trouble. When you get behind they can cut those guys loose on the pass rush."

Brown repeatedly bounced off tacklers and Barden had little trouble getting open against a Carolina defense that failed to pressure Manning.

Brown ran 13 times for 71 yards and a touchdown last week against Tampa Bay and surpassed that total by the end of the first quarter with 77 yards on seven.

Barden had 123 yards on sev-

en catches at halftime.

Before Thursday night, the fourth-year receiver had never managed more than nine catches for 94 yards receiving in a season.

"At this level, you never know when you're going to get an opportunity, you've got to be prepared for it," Manning said. "Andre Brown is a great example. He's a guy we drafted, he bounced around, and we brought him back. He was on the bubble to make the team, and here you go. Ahmad (Bradshaw) gets hurt, and he ran great, he pass-protected."

"He did get off to a bit of a shaky start. He went left when he was supposed to run right on the first play. We had a little talk and got him settled down, and after that, he did very, very well."

Any hopes that the Panthers would turn things around in the second half were slowed when rookie returner Adams fumbled trying to catch the opening kickoff, resulting in another field goal for Lawrence Tynes.

Tynes finished with five field goals on the night.

The Panthers didn't get on the board until midway through the third quarter when Newton leaped over the pile from a yard out.

Newton said it wasn't what the Giants did but what the Panthers didn't do.

"Who wants to supports something that puts on a performance of embarrassment out there, and that's what that was," Newton said. "If I was a fan of the Carolina Panthers I would be holding my head down in shame at the product that was out there."

Newton said the Panthers problem was execution, not anything the Giants did to stop them.

"We have to fix it," Newton said.

PGA Tour, the focus again returned to the top two players.

A boisterous gallery lined the fairways and crowded behind every green to see the latest edition of Tiger and Rory, and they didn't disappoint. McIlroy is playing East Lake for the first time, and he struggled with the Bermuda rough around the greens.

"If you don't hit fairways, it's hard," McIlroy said. "If you hit the ball in the rough here, it's very, very difficult to get any control on your ball."

Woods again had McIlroy's number when playing together, even though Boy Wonder is winning more trophies. Woods has posted the lower score in four of the five rounds they have played together in the playoffs. The exception was Crooked Stick, when McIlroy opened with a 64 and Woods had a 65.

Woods, as usual, didn't read too much into that.

"I enjoy playing with Rory," he said. "He's a great kid. Over the years, there are certain pairings for me that I've enjoyed, and Rory is one of them."

THE TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP®

ATLANTA (AP)—In the one week Tiger Woods had away from golf during the FedEx Cup playoffs, Nick Faldo said he had lost his aura, Greg Norman said he was intimidated by Rory McIlroy and Johnny Miller claimed that Woods once wanted lessons from him.

"Nice week, huh?" Woods said, grinning.

Even better was to be back on the course Thursday at the Tour Championship, where Woods had the final word for at least for one day. He kept the ball in play at East Lake, chipped in for one of his six birdies and wound up with a 4-under 66 for a share of the lead with Justin Rose.

It was the first step toward what Woods hopes is a third FedEx Cup title, and another \$10 million bonus.

"I probably could have gotten a couple more out of it," Woods

Woods makes an early statement at East Lake

said about his opening round. "But I was probably right on my number."

McIlroy, playing with Woods for the fifth time in these FedEx Cup playoffs, got up-and-down from short of the par-3 18th hole for a 69. McIlroy is trying to become the first player since Woods in 2006 to win three straight PGA Tour events in the same season, and he wasn't overly alarmed by his start.

"Wish I could have shot a couple shots better," McIlroy said. "But I'm in a good position going into tomorrow."

The week began with Norman saying that Woods was intimidated by McIlroy, a suggestion that both players found amusing. While it's doubtful that inspired Woods, he played as if he wasn't ready to let McIlroy win a third straight playoff event and capture the FedEx Cup.

McIlroy, who has won three of his last four tournaments, and Woods are among the top five

seeds at East Lake who only have to win the Tour Championship to claim the largest payoff in golf. Woods wasn't interested in what anyone else was doing.

"Just winning," he said. "Winning takes care of everything."

Jack Nicklaus even weighed in on Norman's comments to FoxSports.com. Nicklaus was doing a radio interview with ESPN 980 in Washington when told about Norman's remarks that McIlroy intimidated Woods. Nicklaus said playfully, "Quiet, Greg. Quiet. Down, boy."

"I think Tiger has a lot of wins left in him," Nicklaus said. "He does have a lot more competition. During the couple of years when Tiger wasn't really there, all of a sudden you have Rory McIlroy, Keegan Bradley and I could probably name a half-dozen other guys that have all won and learned how to win in Tiger's absence. They're not scared of him anymore."

Rose, who hasn't won since

the World Golf Championship at Doral in March, swiftly moved up the leaderboard late in his round with three birdies over the last five holes, and the last one was memorable. From the back of the green on the par-3 18th, Rose faced a 50-foot putt with some 20 feet of break from right to left. It looked wide the whole way until it snapped back toward the cup.

Equally impressive was chipping in from some 20 yards short of the 14th green for the birdie that started his big run.

Rose is 24th in the FedEx Cup, meaning he would have to win and everyone at the top of the standings would have to falter. The way Woods started, that looked improbable. Rose checked the leaderboard early on, not to see his projected standing, but to get an idea of how the course was playing.

That part was easy to decipher. On a warm day, with the sun finally breaking through

cloud cover in the middle of the afternoon, no one was tearing up the place.

"Obviously, I realized it was time to be patient," Rose said. "No one was really going low ... so I always had that in the back of my mind."

Scott Piercy ran off three straight birdies late in his round until he stumbled in the rough behind the 18th green and finished with a double bogey for a 67, tied with Steve Stricker, Matt Kuchar and Bo Van Pelt. Stricker was the only player in the 30-man field without a bogey.

Hunter Mahan appeared to snap out of his funk from missing out on the Ryder Cup with a 68, tied with a group that included Brandt Snedeker, who is among the top five seeds. The others are Phil Mickelson, who opened with a 69, and Nick Watney, who brought up the rear with a 75.

Despite the Tour Championship featuring the top 30 on the

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**MLB STANDINGS****AMERICAN LEAGUE**

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	86	63	.577	—
Baltimore	85	64	.570	1
Tampa Bay	80	70	.533	6 1/2
Boston	68	83	.450	19
Toronto	66	82	.446	19 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	81	68	.544	—
Detroit	79	70	.530	2
Kansas City	68	81	.456	13
Cleveland	62	88	.413	19 1/2
Minnesota	62	88	.413	19 1/2

West Division

Texas	89	60	.597	—
Oakland	85	64	.570	4
Los Angeles	81	69	.540	8 1/2
Seattle	70	80	.467	19 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE**East Division**

z-Washington	91	58	.611	—
Atlanta	86	64	.573	5 1/2
Philadelphia	76	74	.507	15 1/2
New York	66	83	.443	25
Miami	66	84	.440	25 1/2

Central Division

z-Cincinnati	91	59	.607	—
St. Louis	80	70	.533	11
Milwaukee	77	72	.517	13 1/2
Pittsburgh	74	75	.497	16 1/2
Chicago	58	92	.387	33
Houston	48	102	.320	43

West Division	
San Francisco	87
Los Angeles	77
Arizona	74
San Diego	72
Colorado	58

z-clinched playoff berth

TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

ATLANTA (AP)—Scores Thursday from the \$8 million Tour Championship at the 7,319-yard, par-70 course at East Lake Golf Club:

FIRST ROUND

Justin Rose	34-32-66
Tiger Woods	33-33-66
Scott Piercy	33-34-67
Bo Van Pelt	33-34-67
Matt Kuchar	33-34-67
Steve Stricker	34-33-67
Hunter Mahan	35-33-68
Adam Scott	36-32-68
Robert Garrigus	34-34-68
Zach Johnson	36-32-68
Brandt Snedeker	36-32-68
Ryan Moore	33-36-69
Jim Furyk	32-37-69
Bubba Watson	36-33-69
Sergio Garcia	34-35-69
Dustin Johnson	34-35-69
Phil Mickelson	35-34-69
Rory McIlroy	35-34-69
Keegan Bradley	36-34-70
Jason Dufner	36-34-70
Louis Oosthuizen	36-34-70
Rickie Fowler	36-35-71
Webb Simpson	35-36-71
Carl Pettersson	34-37-71
Luke Donald	37-34-71
John Senden	36-36-72
Ernie Els	36-36-72
Lee Westwood	35-37-72
John Huh	35-39-74
Nick Watney	37-38-75

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SONICS

From Page 24

and Adrian Palacios led the group with a couple of baskets apiece.

LD Prime managed to more or less equal its first half production in the third quarter, but the Sonics remained way in front and coasted to a 56-25 advantage heading into the final period.

Sonics' Jimmy Tudela signed off the win with 6 markers in the fourth quarter to finish with a game-high 12, while LD Prime's Lawrence Rollon turned in 10 under duress.

Sonics 68 — Tudela 12, Mariano 10, Deguzman 8, Caro 8, Alegre 7, Palacios 6, Javier 4, Del Rosario 4, Villanueva 2.

LD Prime 37 — Rollon 10, Esteves 7, Pelegrino 4, David 4, Gunnacho 4, Aldan 4, Espinosa 2, Quemado 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-7, 44-13, 56-25, 68-37.

Kanoa bounces back, edges POI

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Kanoa Resort recovered from its debut loss in the 2012 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League after outclassing POI, 71-67, last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

Kanoa, which bowed to CTSI-D&Q in the league opener early this month, 86-91, avoided a 0-2 record after drawing another big game from Ryan Manglona. The lanky forward, who had 23 markers in Kanoa's first match, fired 20 against POI, making 19 of them in the fourth period. Manglona single-handedly carried the fight for Kanoa in the payoff canto, as he drilled 13 of the team's last 15 points, including three crucial triples.

With Kanoa holding a shaky 49-48 advantage at the end of the third period, Manglona opened the fourth with back-to-back baskets and a few minutes later, he started a scoring spree, connecting on three triples and three more field goals. The Kanoa gunner held his ground against POI's Ferdie Arago and Anthony Esteves, who combined for 16 of their 19 markers in the payoff canto.

Esteves had to help Arago run POI's offense in the fourth period after Ramsa Tenepere went cold in the homestretch. Tenepere had a game-high 27 points, but was scoreless in the fourth frame.

While Tenepere ran out of steam in the fourth, Manglona, who was without a field goal in the first three quarters,



Kanoa Resort's Ryan Manglona drives and draws a foul on CTSI-D&Q's Shane Mendiola during the opening game in the Tan Holdings caging at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

saved his best for last to foil Arago and Esteves' bid of putting POI in the win column. POI dropped its debut against JP Centre.

Shirley's 77, JP Centre 67

In the second game, Shirley's Coffee

Shop grabbed a share of the lead with CTSI-D&Q after beating JP Centre.

Shirley's played better in the second half en route to the 10-point win. It started the second half with a 32-point production in the third, turning a 21-32 deficit to a 53-47 advantage.

for every win, 1 for a draw, and none for a loss.

NMIFA president Jerry Tan said the M-League will be the backbone of the CNMI National Team.

"The league will have both youth players and adults, who will be tapped to represent the CNMI in international tournaments. Through the M-League, we hope to continue improving the skills of our players and prepare them for highly competitive tournaments

Guam, has been confirmed to take on Garry Ray, while as reported, Trench Tech's Fasi "Quikdraw" Jesse (9-4), who vows to keep the belt on home soil.

Meanwhile, Trench Tech bantamweight champion Mark "The Dark" Nuique (8-1) is looking to bounce back from his first ever loss in a must-win setting as his local title is on the line against Zalaka's Jacob "One Blow" Ilo (0-2).

The most recent alteration to the fight card features "Shishka" Bob Alvarez lined up across Marianas Elite's Vince "Vincsanity" Pua (2-1) at 150 lbs.

In addition, a fourth bantamweight (135 lbs) match has been added to the aforementioned trio, which features Trench Tech /Tiyan Tough Walkers' Roman "Boom" Alvarez tangling with Josh "Oh My Gosh" Cruz.

Lights Out Gym's Kyle Toves, of

"This time Manny will go after him like the first fight," Roach said. "Manny told me he knows he needs a knockout. He's never said that before."

Having put Marquez on the canvas four times—three in the opening round of their first fight in 2004 and once in the third round of Pacquiao-Marquez

II in 2008—Pacquiao definitely has the power to knock out Marquez.

Roach said he needs "to re-ignite the killer instinct Manny has lacked in the last (two) fights with Marquez," whom he narrowly beat by split and majority decision, respectively.

There was neither fire nor anger in

Rommel Usi, who was scoreless in the first half, came out smoking for Shirley's in the period. He began the second half with five straight points and ended the third with a triple to score 13 points in that period alone and put Shirley's in the driver's seat.

JP Centre lost the upper hand in the third, as only Dino Valdez and John March Ong scored more than one field goal at the start of the second half.

Valdez and Ong found support from Ferdie de la Torre in the fourth, but JP Centre failed to reclaim the lead, as Fradel Sedillo's ran the show for Shirley's, nailing 14 of his 26 markers in the payoff canto.

Meanwhile, CTSI-D&Q was awarded its second win in as many games after a no-show from defending champion Fiesta Resort & Spa (0-2).

First Game

Shirley's Coffee Shop 77 — Sedillo 26, Usi 15, Dela Rosa 11, Yap 9, Nicdao 2, Sarande 2.

JP Centre 67 — J. Ong 26, Valdez 11, de la Torre 11, Angeles 7, Rabago 4, Cadauan 3, Moran 2, O. Ong 2.

Scoring by quarters: 11-15, 21-32, 53-47, 77-67.

Second Game

Kanoa Resort 71 — Manglona 20, Cruz 9, Benavente 9, Sablan 9, De Leon 7, Pablo 6, Nunez 4, David 3, Bata 2, Jung 2.

POI 67 — Tenepere 27, Arago 16, Bongaling 7, Esteves 6, Pensa 5, Sablan 2, Iglesias 1, Anier 1.

Scoring by quarters: 13-17, 32-35, 49-48, 71-67.

Regino Mundo of Tinian battling Zalaka first-timer Nick Jones at 145 lbs; Zalaka's



Manning, Brown
help Giants rout
Panthers, 36-7

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Saipan Tribune Sports

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Sonics rout LD Prime in U20

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Sonics creamed LD Prime, 68-37, in Wednesday's Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League U20 division matchup at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In addition, Rotary's U16 season is set to resume this morning at the Ada Gym starting at 9am with RBC's D-South (0-1) taking on sister squad Rollers 1 (1-0), followed by the CNMI

junior national girls team against RBC's Rollers 2 (1-0) at 10:15am. Proa (1-0)

will end the games against Hi-5 (0-1) at 11:30am.

The Sonics boomed out of the gate and amassed an early 28-7 lead in the opening 10 minutes. Paul Mariano led seven other contributors with 8 points in the first quarter and the group trudged ahead, 44-13, after the second period.

The Sonics spread the ball around for another generous yield provided by seven different pairs of hands. Ezra Caro

**See SONICS on
Page 23**

Sonics' Bryl Alegre makes a strong move to the basket against LD Prime's center Benjie Pelegreno in Wednesday's SRCYBL U20 age division matchup held in Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND



Mystery opponent for PikaBoo in ROP 13



Current Trench Tech featherweight champion Rob "The Real Deal" Wusstig, left, out of Countershoot-Guam, congratulates No. 1 contender Fasi "Quick Draw" Jesse of Trench Tech Purebred after the latter's victory in ROP 12: Unstoppable! held last April at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

It looks as though Shane "Pika-Boo" Alvarez's (7-1) opponent will not be unveiled until fight night as he is still listed to appear against a mystery foe in this coming Friday's Trench Tech Purebred Promotions' Rites Of Passage 13: Destiny.

Notably, Countershoot MMA's Jared "Smiley Face" Santos (0-1) and Zalaka's Ian Iriate have been removed from the card, but new names such as Trench Tech/Tiyan Tough Walkers' "Shishka" Bob Alvarez as

well as a host of others have been added into the mix.

Santos has already made three ROP appearances and may appear in the ensuing Trench Warz event this December.

ROP 13 is highlighted by an anticipated Saipan vs. France main event and not one, but two title bouts.

TRENCH TECH

The mixed martial arts action is scheduled to go down in Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ball Room starting at 8pm. A total of 12 MMA bouts and four K-1 kickboxing exhibitions are tentatively listed on the fight card.

See MYSTERY on Page 23



Nationals beat
Dodgers to clinch
postseason slot

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ROSELYN B. MONROY

Wild Bill's Glenn Smith catches the ball during their game against Paire in the NMIFA spring league played at the Oleai Sports Complex Field in April this year. Wild Bill's is one of the nine teams competing in the M-League.

M-League kicks off tomorrow

By ROSELYN B. MONROY
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REPORTER

The much-awaited M-League will open tomorrow at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The league is sanctioned by the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association and according to NMIFA technical director Johann Noetzel, the competition is the CNMI's version of the prestigious Japan League.

"We took inspiration for re-branding NMIFA men's league from our mentors, the



Japan Football Association, which has the J League or the Japan League," Noetzel said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

"The M-League will feature the highest level of competitive football on Saipan. You will see extra ordinary performances from the players and exciting matches from the participating teams," he added.

The fall season of the M-League will have nine teams divided into two groups. Division 1 is composed of Inter See **M-LEAGUE on Page 23**



Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, right, and his trainer Freddie Roach laugh at a news conference to promote his upcoming boxing match against Juan Manuel Marquez in Beverly Hills, Calif., Monday, Sept. 17, 2012.

Freddie Roach wants overhaul of Pacquiao fight plan vs Marquez

By ROY LUARCA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

For trainer Freddie Roach, an overhaul of their fight straight strategy is in order if Manny Pacquiao is to finally knock Juan Manuel Marquez out on Dec. 8.



"We have Marquez three times using all kinds of strategy," Roach told ringtv.caveman.com Wednesday (Thursday in Manila).

"It's time to throw logic out the window and start over."

See FREDDIE on Page 23